

WALSALL CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 27, 2012

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See page 42



MP attacks 'confusing' planning proposals

PROPOSED new planning rules are ambiguous and confusing, according to a Walsall MP.

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, raised concerns over changes that are intended to speed up the planning process. She said: "The Secretary of State's statement should have given us clarity, not ambiguity, but I will give some examples of how it will confuse a lot of people, including planning lawyers."

"First, planning inspectors will be allowed to decide on applications, instead of the local authority."

"However, the problem is not the speed with which planning officers have to deal with applications, but the lack of properly qualified staff."

Cuts

"In most councils, cuts are affecting the number of staff who can make proper decisions on planning issues."

"The Government is looking for options to speed up planning appeals. Here is one easy remedy: more judges should be appointed to the High Court to deal with judicial reviews and appeals."

Miss Vaz also repeated concerns she has previously raised about the Green Belt, adding: "There is no need to further relax the planning rules, but there is a need to protect the countryside."

Traders join night market

MORE than 30 stalls have already been selected for Walsall's first night market, being held in a month's time.

Organisers say the inaugural event, taking place on October 25 from 5pm, will include an artisan bakery and homemade cupcake stall.

These traders are among those to put their names down for the event, which it is hoped will boost footfall in the town centre.

BUS STATION IN £14M SCHEME

Report by Chris Hughes

PLANS for a new £14 million public transport interchange – including a new bus station – are being drawn up for Walsall town centre.

A revamped bus station, taxi rank, coach services and car drop-off facilities are being earmarked for Bradford Place. Firm proposals are now being put together for the scheme involving Walsall Council and Centro.

Funding will be needed from the Government and it is the latest in a series of multi-million pound plans being looked at across the borough.

Council will seek advice on services for children

TOP-PERFORMING councils are to be approached for advice to help turn around Walsall's failing children's services, council bosses have agreed.

Councillors from all parties vowed to back all efforts to improve the "inadequate" care of vulnerable young people across the borough.

At a meeting of the full council on Monday night, the first since the results of an inspection came to light, support was given to ensuring improvements.

An amended put forward by Democratic Labour councillor Pete Smith was unanimously backed within the chamber.

Find

It called for support for the work of the new independent children's improvement board to find out why the service failed so badly.

It was also agreed to liaise with other authorities, that have similar social and economic profiles to Walsall, on areas of good practice where safeguarding services for children and young people are rated as excellent or good. More than £200,000 a year is being spent on an interim director.

Agency workers doubled – see page 32

The current satellite bus terminus has previously been dogged by safety concerns.

A report from transport chiefs over the proposed interchange states: "Walsall town centre interchange will be the main public transport hub in Walsall."

"It will be located on the south or west of the town centre and will replace the heavily congested Bradford Place interchange, whilst complementing St Paul's Bus Station on the other side of town."

Shops

"It will be a fully integrated transport facility including a bus station plus inter-urban coach services, taxi rank and private car drop-off/pick-up facilities."

"The interchange will be within easy walking distance of the town's shops, offices and leisure facilities."

"The scheme will provide direct impact and investment to the continuing regeneration of Walsall."

Work is not expected to begin until 2015 at earliest.

A £430,000 package of improvements was completed last year with modern glass shelters installed and changes to the road layout.

It comes as up to £10 million has also been earmarked to improve Lichfield Road, the main link between the town centre and Brownhills.

This will see new junctions to reduce congestion at busy sections of the route.

There are also £25 million proposals to overhaul junction 10 of the M6 to combat years of problem queues.

The ambitious proposals aim to increase traffic flow around the main junction between Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Long traffic queues regularly build up around Wolverhampton Road and the Black Country Route as motorists head towards the M6.

A glimpse behind the blue line



Twins Sean and Charlie Dickenson, four, with PCS Andy Clarke and Tim Lewis at the open day held at Walsall Police's Green Lane headquarters

THOUSANDS of people enjoyed a rare glimpse behind the scenes – and in the cells – as Walsall Police Station opened its doors to the community.

Areas normally off limits to the public were part of a grand tour of the Green Lane station on Sunday. It is thought visitor numbers exceeded the 3,000 that attended last year's event. One of the highlights of the day was the landing of an RAF helicopter in the grounds of the station.

The new police commander for Walsall, Chief Superintendent David Sturman, gave the official welcome.

The event is aimed at giving local people the chance to get to know neighbourhood bobbies and to see how policing has changed.

There were police dog demonstrations, the opportunity to see inside traffic and firearms cars and a range of police vehicles through the ages.

Business patrols hailed as a success

A SCHEME to combat business crime is to be launched in Darlaston after a successful project in Willenhall, where there have been reports of significant reductions in attacks on property and equipment.

The business watch scheme has involved a private security firm helping police patrol areas. Supported by Walsall Council's district centre management team, the authority says it is has an "extremely positive impact" in the community.

Private security firm Cougar Monitoring is helping with the patrols.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires, who is Walsall Council's member for community engagement, said: "This is a great example of the success that can be achieved through the strength of partnership working."

"Pooling resources means the community receives an even greater level of service, greater choice and a better standard of product."

The council says the success of the initiative has reinforced the efforts of the authority and police to combat the threat of criminal activity around commercial property.

Plans are now being made to introduce the scheme into Darlaston, where there have been reports of a number of manufacturing businesses suffering due to crime.

No decision on cemetery

A DECISION on plans to charge families up to £75 for wooden edgings around graves at Streetly Cemetery – after complaints about graves being walked on – has been delayed.

It was due to come before a council meeting in Walsall on Monday night in response to a 2,500 name petition about the Hardwick Road site.

A plan by the council to bring in wooden edgings to protect the graves at a cost of £75 to relatives was due to be debated. But the item was withdrawn.

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More money invested in Bescot Market

THOUSANDS of pounds have been spent on improvements at Walsall's Bescot Market helping to bring in new traders.

Around £4,000 has been ploughed into new sheets for stalls in a bid to improve the pitch.

The market is held at Bank Crescent on Sundays and Bank Holiday markets have also been launched.

Market manager Steve Evans, of Bescot Promotions, said: "We have invested a lot of money and got a lot of new traders."

Improve

"We want to improve the look of the market."

It comes as a bar area has also been opened at the market in a bid to

attract shoppers. Walsall Football Club has recently opened new bars in the Five Rivers Family Stand and away end at Banks's Stadium.

The Bescot Sunday Market recently celebrated its 21st anniversary. It regularly attracts 200 stalls and started in 1991.

Walsall Council chiefs have also tried different ways of boosting foot-

fall in the town, including the introduction of specialist events such as the Italian market in Willenhall and Aldridge.

Preparations are also under way for Walsall's first night market.

It will be the first of its kind and is due to launch on October 25, featuring up to 50 stalls, live music and a range of entertainment.

Layby metal thieves wore hi-vis jackets

THIEVES stole around £2,500 worth of metal after putting on high visibility jackets to pose as workmen in Walsall, a court heard.

They struck while British Gas had been carrying out a pipe replacement scheme in Longwood Lane, Aldridge, this summer. Police found the thieves putting metal struts into a white transit van in a layby on August 29 at 7.15pm.

The number plate was covered up to hide the identity of the vehicle and around 30 metal supports were found.

Kiah Smith and Stefan Law both admitted theft when they appeared before Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

Smith, aged 33, of Holden Crescent, Coalpool, who had a similar conviction last year, was sentenced to a six month jail term suspended for 12 months. He was responsible for the vehicle and was banned from driving for a year and also given a month-long curfew between 7pm and 7am.

Law, 27, of Barecroft, Willenhall, was handed an eight week prison sentence suspended for a year and a one month curfew between 8pm and 6am.

District judge Graeme Wilkinson said such cases of metal theft were now "endemic."

Sentencing Smith he said: "You knew what you were doing, you went in your van, you went with high visibility jackets so it would appear, in my view, that you were involved in some sort of official business."

"These offences are now so prevalent people like you steal metal from wherever you can find it."

Proceeds

Both defendants were ordered to pay £85 costs.

Mr Suresh Joshi, for Smith, told the hearing it had not been planned and the van has since been sold.

Mr Brij Choudhury, for Law, said the intention was to split the proceeds.

Judge Wilkinson told Smith: "The only reason you are not going straight through that door to prison is because of your early guilty plea."

"You, like too many other people, think that it is alright to steal metal then take it to reputable scrap metal dealers."

"Your van should have been taken off you. I am disappointed the police did not keep your van as I would have the power to have it crushed."

Look back at town's landmarks

RESIDENTS can compare the past with the present in Walsall during a public talk on Monday.

Old photographs and postcards with views of the town will also go on show at Walsall Local History Centre in Essex Street.

Mike Glasson, senior museum curator will give the talk and highlight the town's important buildings.

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "For its size, Walsall has probably seen more extensive changes to its fabric than any other town in Britain. Comprehensive redevelopment in the 1960s and 1970s saw the clearing of many historic buildings."

The talk is from 7 to 9pm with tickets at £2. Book on (01922) 721305.

Children's laptops stolen



Tameside Primary headteacher Gary Linford and disappointed pupils with the cabinet from which the school's laptop computers were stolen by 'callous' thieves

POLICE described thieves who stole laptops worth £14,000 from a Friar Park school as "callous" and said the theft would be damaging to pupils.

Thieves smashed a window and broke into a locked trolley stealing 20 Mac laptops at Tameside Primary School.

Officers are now appealing for information to catch those responsible for the break in, which took place between 4.30pm on Sep-

tember 13 and 8.45am on September 14. Sergeant Sean Griffiths, from Friar Park neighbourhood policing team, said the Macbook laptops were worth £645 each.

He added: "This callous act will no doubt be damaging to not only the school but to the young people too. The laptops are a vital piece of equipment used by students. Anyone offered a laptop that they think might be stolen can contact police."

Stadium to keep its rail ticket office despite cuts

WALSALL South MP Valerie Vaz has welcomed news that the railway ticket office at Bescot Stadium will remain open, despite cuts hitting some other West Midlands stations.

It comes as train operator London Midland chose to close the office at Lye railway station, near Stourbridge.

The station at Small Heath will keep its office, but the offices at Jewellery Quarter, Duddston and Adderley Park will have reduced hours.

Threat

Ms Vaz said: "The parliamentary under-secretary Norman Baker at the Department for Transport has written to me to confirm that the ticket office at Bescot Stadium station, which was under threat, will remain open."

"The ticket office is an important public service for residents of Pleck and Palfrey who are able to purchase train tickets and ask for travel advice within walking distance of their homes."

"Ticket offices are also vital for residents who prefer to pay in cash or are unable to use computerised ticket machines."

She said the ticket office was also a "vital resource" for people attending football matches at Banks's Stadium.

Human exhibits at city museum

BIRMINGHAM Museum and Art gallery is on the hunt for human exhibits to tell visitors their extraordinary stories or links to the history of the city.

Those taking part will become human artefacts to celebrate the new exhibition, called Birmingham: its people, its history.

Seven selected 'Birmingham Exhibitionists' will be positioned on a podium in Chamberlain Square for a dedicated time slot, between October 12 and 18, giving visitors the opportunity to ask questions.

Temporary signals

TEMPORARY traffic lights will be in place during manhole repairs taking place in Willenhall tomorrow (Friday).

Work is being carried out on Bloxwich Road South, at the junction of Granville Street, from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

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Open-top bus tour for Ellie



Swimmer Ellie Simmonds
SWIMMING sensation Ellie Simmonds will celebrate her success at the Paralympics with an open top bus tour of Walsall.

The homecoming reception has been organised following discussions with the 17-year-old's family.

Ellie, who bagged two golds, a silver and a bronze at London 2012, will board the bus on October 8 after visiting her golden postbox in Aldridge High Street.

She will be waved off by pupils from her former primary school Cooper & Jordan before travelling to Walsall Town Hall to take part in a question-and-answer session with young people.

Ellie, whose family home is in Aldridge, said she wanted to do something young people could enjoy. "The support has been amazing and it's nice to think I can thank all the people who watched the Games on TV or listened on the radio in Walsall," she said.

"I also wanted to involve pupils from my old school which has re-named its pool in my honour and recognise Aldridge, as that's where I call home."

Jubilee fun at Streetly

A CELEBRATION of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be held in Streetly this weekend.

Streetly Community Association, on Foley Road East, will open its doors to the public on Saturday from 12 to 4pm for an event including a children's fancy dress competition, Zumba dancing and karate display.

Mayor of Walsall Dennis Anson will open the event, which is also being supported by Aldridge-Brownhills MP Richard Shepherd.

Other activities will include street dancing, donkey rides, a giant climbing tower and face-painting, plus balloon modelling and a magic show for the children.

Ex-teacher spared jail over images of children

A FORMER teacher from Willenhall, who stored thousands of indecent images of children on his home computer, has been spared jail.

James Kennedy trained for the priesthood before deciding to start a family and was also a registered FA football coach, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 48-year-old is now unemployed but had worked as a supply teacher and tutor for disruptive pupils excluded from secondary schools.

Police found more than 4,000 images of children on a computer and memory stick during a

raid on a house in Wakes Close, Willenhall. More than 300 of these images were from the two worst categories, revealed prosecutor David Lees.

Kennedy, who has moved to Meadow Way, Stafford, had been exchanging images online with up to six people, the court heard last week.

The defendant, who claimed to be suffering from depression, later told police he had "no sexual interest" in children but Judge Robin Onions said: "I find that impossible to accept."

Lewis Perry, defending, said Kennedy was a "good man of exemplary character" who had been

driven to commit the crime through loneliness following the break-up of his relationship.

Kennedy pleaded guilty to five offences involving the possession of more than 4,500 indecent images of children, two of possessing indecent moving images and two of distributing indecent images of children. He was given a three-year community order on condition he completes an intensive sex offender group work programme, and ordered to pay £340 costs.

He was also banned from working with children for life.



James Kennedy

Legal orders to clean up eyesore properties

MORE than a dozen legal orders have been issued on owners' of eyesore properties across Walsall to get them cleaned up.

The formal orders have been enforced on run down sites which have proved a blight on the landscape across the borough. Walsall Council enforcement officers issued the section 215 notices which force an owner to address unsightly land and external appearance of a property.

There is a maximum fine of £1,000 if prosecution action is sought.

Guilty parties could also face £100-a-day costs following a conviction for each day the work is not completed.

The council can decide to undertake improvements itself and then bill the owner.

Reserve

Around £100,000 has been earmarked in reserve for this year in case the authority pursues such an approach.

A total of 13 orders were served on those responsible for eyesores over the last few years, including Mellish Road Church, which has since been demolished, and 284 Lichfield Road, Willen-

hall. The council was on the verge of taking direct action to demolish the fire-ravaged building when the ownership changed and renovation works started.

David Elsworth, head of planning, said: "The ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of a property lies with the landowner. The current legislative powers permit the council to take action when, due to neglect, properties adversely affect the wider amenity of the area."

"There is a list of high profile cases where intervention by the council has brought about significant improvements to properties in the last few years."

Teenager traces her family back to an executed queen

A BLOXWICH teenager has traced her roots back to Anne Boleyn and will be displaying her family tree this weekend. Lucy Shepherd, aged 16, a sixth former at Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School, has an interest in history that led her to find out about her blue blood.

Lucy became intrigued in her family's past when her grandmother, Eileen Bishop, 77, from Dudley Fields, suspected a royal link to the family crest. Lucy said: "It took me around 18 months but when I found out who I was related to I was in shock."

She is the 17th cousin removed of Anne Boleyn, ill-fated wife of Henry VIII, and can trace her line back to William the Conqueror. She will display her family tree this weekend at the annual exhibition of Cheslyn Hay and District Local History Society at the village hall in Pinfold Lane. She hopes it will entice others to trace their own ancestry.

Apprentice star hired as judge



Apprentice star Paula Jones with Aldridge School students Natalie Charles, Ellie Drakely, Joanna Coleman, Reece Caunt, Tom Danks, Marc Duffus, and Jamal Downie

A HOMEGROWN Apprentice star visited sixth-form students at Aldridge School to judge a business competition.

More than 120 Year 12 students at the Tynings Lane school took part in the entrepreneurial Apprentice challenge day.

Walsall's Paula Jones dropped by to hear their pitches at the event organised by Walsall Education Business Partnership.

Inventive

Students were divided into teams and given three hours to develop a new business model which they had to present to a panel of judges, including the reality TV star and local business leaders.

Ms Jones said: "In a relatively short space of time students came up with some very inventive business proposals."

She added: "All of them gave fantastic pitches. Even Lord Sugar would have been impressed."

Lorenzo Cosco, from Walsall Education Business Partnership, said: "They were incredibly enterprising and came up with creative ideas for new phone apps, food and hair products."

NEWS in brief

Children's TV duo visiting a nursery

CHILDREN'S TV stars Ben and Holly will be visiting a nursery in Streetly next Thursday to take part in Magical School Games.

The duo is taking part in Tumble Tot's national Leaps and Bounds campaign that promotes exercise as fun.

Money raised during the campaign will go to Jeans4Genes a charity that aims to change the world for children with genetic disorders.

The popular characters will arrive at Taylors Tots Nursery in Boundary Court, Streetly, at 11am on Thursday, October 4.

Views of the Lake District at society

IMAGES of the Lake District will be shown at the next meeting of Walsall Photographic Society.

Club members Teresa Tunnell and Jo Yarnall will be showing digital images of their ramblings around the Lake District. It will take place at Forest Arts Centre, in Hawbush Road, Leamore, at 7.30pm on Monday. Visitors can attend for £2 and new members are sought.

Call Tony Woodvine on (01922) 867352.

Beef and beer on the menu at pub

A PUB in Willenhall will be holding its first ever Beef and Beer Festival this weekend.

British beers and British beef dishes will be on offer at The County, in Walsall Street, Willenhall, on today (Friday), Saturday and Sunday.

Live music will also be on offer for visitors

Moorland walk for the ramblers

WALSALL branch of the Ramblers will be heading to Rushton Spencer, near Leek, for a 10.5 mile walk on Sunday.

The walk will take in moorland, a disused railway and lots of styles.

Call the walk leader for information on 01543 321770.

Blood donor session

THE NHS is appealing for volunteers to give blood on Thursday, October 4, at St James Church, in Vicarage Road, Brownhills, 1.30-3.30pm or 4.30-7.30pm.

Coffee at the station

A MACMILLAN coffee morning is being held at Willenhall Fire Station, Clarks Lane, today (Friday) from 10am.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



DOWNTON Abbey. Anyone else think Bates dunnit?
□□□□□□□□

STRANGE old world. When I wrote recently that Kate should not have sunbathed topless, I put on my tin hat, retreated to my slit trench, expecting endless flak defending a woman's right to disrobe. In fact the vast majority of correspondents share my view. Show us Brits a human right worth defending and we will fight for it to the death. Removing one's bikini top in view of a public highway is a self-indulgence, nothing more.
□□□□□□□□

IF the Profile (Radio 4) programme on Andy Murray was intended to make us warm to the champion of the Olympics and the US Open, it failed. Murray came across as a young man who, from childhood, has been a terrible loser with a shocking temper. There is a world of difference between a champion and a national treasure.
□□□□□□□□

I HAVE just spent an afternoon in hell assembling three flat-pack kitchen units. Much blood, sweat and tears went into installing the soft-close drawers. These are the ones that can never be slammed. Instead, a dinky little piston gently pulls the drawers closed. But why? When did we become a nation of compulsive drawer slammers, cupboard slammers or, for that matter, toilet-seat slammers? I blame EastEnders.
□□□□□□□□

AND off to the hairdresser for my last number-four all over, love, before my daughter's wedding. According to the experts, a haircut takes between two and three weeks to look its best. We shall see.
□□□□□□□□

AS THE Wedding of the Century draws ever nearer, we have confusion on the wedding-present front. A guest points out that one of the happy couple's requested items has two meanings, depending on how you pronounce it. What is an aubergine toaster?
□□□□□□□□

I SHARED my tale of flat-pack woe with the hairdresser who said she, too, once tangled with kitchen cupboards and was left with terrible blisters from using a screwdriver. Fortunately, she added, her husband stepped in to help. He bought her an electric screwdriver. Ah, the age of chivalry is still with us.
□□□□□□□□

IT OCCURRED to me, as the Government this week announced that as the definition of domestic abuse is being widened, refusing to help your wife with the flat-pack may become a jailable offence. The authorities do seem to be spreading the net awfully wide. Does anyone seriously believe that extending the definition to include such vague concepts as money control will reduce the toll of battered and murdered spouses? Of course not. The aim is simply to drag more husbands into the judicial process, in much the same way that lowering the speed limit or reducing the blood-alcohol level produces more prosecutions without having any effect on the most serious offenders. I would not be at all surprised if, as an alternative to jail, abusive husbands are sent on spouse-improvement courses run by a commercial company at, say, £1,000 a time. Watch this space.
□□□□□□□□

THERE is no case for issuing all British cops with guns. If the two murdered police officers in Manchester had been armed, they would still have been killed, because that is how ambushes work. The only difference is that their guns and ammunition would have been stolen, to be used in yet more murders.
□□□□□□□□

I AM still struggling with Ed Miliband's assertion that being rich is fine, so long as "you make it the hard way." He got to be Labour leader by standing against his own brother and destroying his political dreams. So was that hard or easy, Ed?
□□□□□□□□

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Centro scrap passenger forum meetings

MEETINGS where bus and rail passengers could raise concerns about public transport have been scrapped, including those held in Walsall.

Transport authority Centro has axed its monthly 'Transport Users' Forums that took place throughout the West Midlands. Instead it will set up "partner engagement groups" filled with members of different bodies including youth parliaments and Friends of the Earth.

The forums were where the public could quiz Centro and the operators of the region's transport services about any issues or concerns.

One passenger who regularly attended meetings, Ewart Johnson, aged 66, a retired credit controller of Thuree Road, Smethwick, said: "I cannot help feeling that it was perhaps more to do with the difficult questions the public were asking."

Centro spokesman Mark Langford said: "Centro has recently reviewed the ways in which we consult with public transport users and stakeholder groups. We have decided to replace the 'Transport Users' Forums for Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall with three new Partner Engagement Groups for Birmingham and Solihull, the Black Country and Coventry."

Work to start on park's water jets

Memorial work is under way



Staffordshire Regiment Association member Barry Gotheridge, 66, and Jack Evans, 76, from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment at Moxley War Memorial with residents

RESTORATION of Moxley war memorial is under way, much to the delight of campaigners who pushed for the work.

The £50,000 programme of improvements includes repairs to the flagpole, new plaques installed and part of the monument illuminated.

The Queen Street structure is the first to be revamped after Walsall Council announced all monuments will be restored in the coming years. Measures are being put in place to deter metal thieves.

Darlaston South councillor Chris Bott has helped to lead the campaign.

She said: "Being born and bred in Moxley I have passed this cenotaph over a number of years and it has badly needed some restoration. I am pleased I have been in a position to help fund it."

Residents in Moxley have helped choose the design of the new brickwork, fencing, gates, railings and benches.

Emblems of poppies will be added to the gates and fencing.

The emblem for Moxley will also be put at both ends of the memorial and illuminated at night.

BUILDERS will finally arrive on site at Walsall Arboretum next month to begin work on replacing the park's worn-out Lido following months of delays.

Construction work is due to start on Monday October 1, months after the project was originally scheduled to be finished in June.

The site was closed and later cleared after being found to be unhygienic, having served the community for nearly 50 years.

The new £250,000 site was announced in July 2011 and is to include interactive water jets and water pads as part of a £7.6 million redevelopment of the town's famous park.

The bandstand has already been refurbishment and an outdoor art gallery created.

The water jets were initially delayed in May due to changes in the plans to allow for the fitting of a more cost-effective water re-circulation system, pushing the start date back to September.

Councillor Anthony Harris, Walsall Council portfolio holder for leisure and culture, explained why delays had been necessary.

by Tom Mason

He said: "We took the decision to delay the start of this work until after the school holidays as it would have meant the play area was out of bounds."

The council decided to delay the work further, to the start of next month, in order to minimise disruption at the bandstand with its programme of events.

Clr Harris added: "It would have had an impact on the recent Bandstand Marathon, which was an important event that drew thousands of people."

"Visitors have been very patient and understanding throughout the work so far and we didn't want to cause additional inconvenience."

Council officials confirmed that the work being undertaken by contractors Ustigate Ltd should be finished before the end of this year with completion of the rest of the work in the park to be by 2014.

Woodland walk is taking shape thanks to helpers

A WOODLAND walk is taking shape at a day centre in Walsall thanks to the hard work of volunteers.

Goscote Greenacres is at the Goscote Centre for adults with disabilities and the wheelchair accessible site has a community cabin, raised beds and community garden plots.

Volunteers from the Walsall learning disability summer scheme recently put their backs into clearing the area as part of community project work.

Paul Mason, community development officer for Goscote Greenacres, said: "We had a couple of volunteer sessions earlier this summer so were making good progress but our efforts have really been boosted by those on the summer scheme who helped us last month. They really got stuck in. They filled loads of wheelbarrows up and at the end of their session it was like looking at a different place."

Council to take back control of education

WALSALL Council's multi-million pound education contract with Serco is to end by April next year, council chiefs have announced.

Remaining services and staff will be transferred back to the council when the £345 million agreement finishes on March 31, five months ahead of schedule.

It was due to be axed next August but the full transfer of up to 400 staff from the private sector firm will happen earlier than originally anticipated.

Council chiefs said the decision to terminate the contract was due to education policy changes at the national level.

Academies

This has seen growing numbers of school become academies.

A phased transition has been taking place since the announcement to end the contract just over a year ago.

The four children's centres currently managed by Serco - at Birchills, Blakenall, Darlaston and Palfrey - will transfer to council control on December 1.

Final services will then revert to the council on April 1 next year.

Education boss Councillor Rachel Andrew promised: "Walsall Council and Serco will continue to work together to ensure a seamless transition of services with minimum disruption for all concerned."

Shoe shop in MS fundraiser

SHOE retailer Brantano are to host a 'Ladies Night' in aid of the Black Country Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis society at its shop at Walsall's Crown Wharf shopping centre today (Thursday).

There will be a 20 per cent discount off everything in store and exhibitors including the Body Shop, Fragrance Shop and Walsall College Beauty Section will be there to pamper guests.

The event starts at noon and goes on until 8pm.

It's so Fluffy

A POET will perform at a library in Walsall on Thursday, October 4.

Jonny Fluffypunk will be at Peasey Library, in Collingwood Drive, from 10.30am to 11.30am.

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Residents get apology over loss of water supply

BOSSES at Walsall Housing Group have apologised after residents at a 17-storey tower block in Brownhills were left without a working water supply.

Tenants at Humphries House, in Lindon Drive, near the town centre claim they were unable to wash for at least a day due to problems with an intermittent water supply.

A major leak in the water pipe has been blamed for the problems and the fault is now believed to be fixed with supplies restored to the building which is home to more than 100 people.

Resident Caroline Hawkins, aged 58, said the situation had been "unhygienic".

"We had no communication from anybody, nothing dropped through the letterbox and no-one bothered knocking on my door.

"It's unhygienic because we didn't even have any water to wash our hands."

Nigel Harris, delivery manager at the housing group, said improvement works were being carried out at Humphries House.

Mr Harris said it was informed the water supply had failed at 4.30pm on Wednesday. He said contractors were on site within half an hour, found the leak and worked through the night to fix it. He said residents were notified.

Mr Harris added: "We apologise to our customers for the inconvenience."

Thug locked up for GBH attack

A **TEENAGER** has been locked up for eight months after breaking the eye socket of 14-year-old boy.

Matthew McNamara struck the schoolboy after groups of youths swapped insults in Walsall town centre in a confrontation on November 19, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Miss Alka Brigue, prosecuting, said the boy suffered a fractured eye socket which required surgery to insert two plates in his face.

Miss Sharonjit Bahia, defending, said: "My client was truly shocked when he realised the extent of the injury he had caused with a single punch."

McNamara, of Wayside Walk, Reedswood, admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm and was sent to a Young Offenders Institution for eight months.

Robbers jailed for stealing man's iPhone

THREE robbers who pounced on a reveller stumbling home from a drinking session and stole his iPhone have been jailed.

The gang followed Nigel Moore after he left the Lamp Tavern in Brownhills. He had been there for nine hours of celebrations to mark the birth of a neighbour's child.

Mitchell Hayward, David Arrowsmith and Jamie Lea returned to the scene of the robbery an hour later and were picked up by

police who were monitoring the area on CCTV.

Hayward, aged 21, had previously committed a burglary on a vacant house in Brownhills, stealing copper piping and a boiler.

Hayward, of Claredon Street, and 24-year-old Arrowsmith, of Broadstone Avenue, were each given two-and-a-half year prison terms. Lea was handed a 21-month sentence at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Prosecutor Mr Mark Lees told the court that Hayward, Arrowsmith and 23-year-old Lea had targeted Mr Moore, aged 34, as he left the pub to make the 10-minute walk home shortly after midnight on May 23.

Grazes

He was knocked to the ground in the attack, suffering minor injuries including swelling to his forehead and grazes to his

knees, the court heard. Mr Moore's girlfriend, who he had been phoning when he was attacked, called the police.

Hayward, Arrowsmith and Lea, of Parker Street, pleaded guilty to robbery at subsequent court appearances.

The court heard Hayward had pleaded guilty to a burglary on January 18.

Library service hit by cost of stand-in staff

TAKING on temporary agency staff contributed to a £39,000 overspend in Walsall's library service in just three months. It comes despite the cash-strapped department battling to save £140,000 over the next three years.

The latest financial monitoring report has shown that the authority was £39,000 over budget during the first three months of the financial year, with agency staff one of the main areas for the extra expenditure. Bosses have insisted it is a small percentage of the overall library budget and it is expected to fall back in line across the whole year. This is despite an anticipated drop in income from fines.

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said the library service has a gross annual budget of £4.7 million.

He said: "The predicted overspend at the end of quarter one of £39,000 is 0.8 per cent of the gross budget and represents a relatively small amount of money.

Illness

"It has predominantly arisen due to the requirement to employ agency staff to cover unexpected vacancies and staff who have long-term illnesses in order to ensure service is not disrupted for the public.

"There is also expected to be a reduction in the fines paid by service users which affects the income generation of the service but shows that the public are returning books and media within the allotted timeframe for their use."

He added: "These pressures are being actively managed by rephrasing new purchases and more flexible use of existing staff and recruitment of volunteers, and it is fully expected that the service will out-turn within budget by March 31, 2013."

Art on beacon

OUTDOOR arts and crafts activities are planned at the Barr Beacon local nature reserve next month.

People are invited to make their own environmental art at the site on October 25, 2pm to 4pm.

Florist wins place at Chelsea



Florist Victoria Richards, from Willenhall, is keeping her fingers crossed after reaching the finals of the prestigious Young Chelsea Florist of the Year competition

A **YOUNG** florist from Willenhall has made it to the finals of the prestigious Young Chelsea Florist of the Year competition.

Victoria Richards works at Lavender Florist in Clay Street, Penkridge.

She made it through to the national finals after impressing the regional judges with a stunning bridal bouquet.

The 23-year-old took part in the initial heats in Loughborough and will now head to

London to compete during the 2013 Chelsea Flower Show, at Hampton Court Palace next summer

Last year she won a gold award and was only 0.1 points short of winning Best in Show, something she is aiming for in 2013

In this year's contest, she was one of 15 young florists asked to create a floral chandelier inspired by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

NEWS in brief

Rotary night for mayor's charity

A **POETRY** and wine evening in Aldridge raised £500 for Leukemia Research.

Mayor of Walsall Councillor Dennis Anson addressed an audience of 50 members of Walsall Saddlers Rotary club and business men and women at the event. They also heard about plans for Great Barr Hall.

It was held at The Moot House, featured Walsall Poet Laureate Ian Henery and raised money for the mayor's appeal.

Broadway shops plan is withdrawn

PLANS for a new four-storey retail and residential complex in Walsall have been withdrawn ahead of consideration by council chiefs.

A scheme to demolish a 1930s building and create a mix of three shops and five apartments on Broadway, Walsall, had been submitted to Walsall Council planners.

Healthcare trust hosts a meeting

THE trust which runs Walsall Manor Hospital is holding its latest public board meeting today (Thursday).

The meeting will take place at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's learning and conference centre in Moat Road, from 2pm.

Splash of colour at a Darlaston venue

NEW plants will be put outside Darlaston Town Hall to boost its appearance following calls for an added splash of colour; the council has confirmed.

They will be added to the flower beds at the historic building in Victoria Road.

Playing fields cap work on schedule

WORK on a scheme to reopen Broadway West Playing Fields in Walsall to sports is on track to be completed by the end of October. A cap is being constructed over contaminated soils. The site was closed to sports in 2003.

Pallet plea ahead of bonfire season

A **PLEA** for pallets has been launched by park rangers in Walsall ahead of three public bonfires across the borough this autumn. Call John Morris on 07736 388418.

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NEWS

Higher fees for college courses

NEW fees have come into force for courses run by Walsall Adult and Community College.

A £4-an-hour charge is now in effect for certain arts and crafts courses.

Previously, learners just paid a one-off £5 administration charge. The new rates have sent the cost of a 10-week course, with two hours a week tuition up to £80.

People on benefits are exempt.

Joanne Keatley, director for curriculum and learning, said: "For colleges everywhere it's a really challenging time to provide affordable adult and community learning."

"Those not receiving a means test benefit are asked to pay £4 per hour."

"We have set our fees after careful consideration so all who wish to learn in an environment immersed in creativity and leisure are able to."

NEWS

in brief

Pupils join forces with store workers

STAFF from a supermarket in Bloxwich joined schoolchildren to tackle litter on playing fields.

Asda's Bloxwich store teamed up with pupils from The Mirus Academy, in Leamore Lane, Beechdale, to clear the nearby Odell Road playing fields of rubbish as part of its Big Litter Pick initiative.

Mirus Academy director of community partnerships Baljit Duffield said: "As a new academy we're committed to making a difference in our local community. We can instil a sense of pride in the younger generation about where they live."

'Intelligent' lights bid at M6 junction

COUNCIL chiefs are expecting a decision over funding for improved traffic signals off the M6 at junction nine by the end of the year.

The £500,000 bid has been submitted by Walsall Council transport bosses. It would see 'intelligent' traffic lights installed with funds from the Highways Agency.

Concert is in aid of church organ

AN event aiming to boost a church organ appeal in Walsall will be staged by a musician celebrating 60 years of teaching and performing. Joyce Mildren has a gala concert on Saturday at 5pm in aid of Central Hall Methodist Church's appeal at the Abiewell Street church.

Footballer to be patron of charity

FORMER Wolves player Lee Mills has become the patron of a charity set up in memory of a young mother from Walsall.

The ex-striker, who represented Wolves from 1992 to 1995, also played for Derby and Port Vale among other clubs and is supporting the Rugeley-based cause Trudy's Trust.

The charity was set up by Mark Leeson and his family following the death of his daughter from an aggressive brain tumour.

Mills joins Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley who agreed to become a patron in July.

Trudy Shingler, a forensic psychologist and former West Midlands beauty queen, died in February last year aged 35.

The trust aims to raise awareness and £1 million for brain tumour research, as well as offer support to other families who find them-



Former player Lee Mills

selves in the same position. Mr Leeson said: "It's fabulous news because Lee knows so many people in the game. He's a nice guy and will be a great figurehead for the charity."

Titles

Trudy, a former Aldridge Community School pupil, was diagnosed with a brain tumour in September 2010 and endured two operations and three months of chemotherapy before her death.



Ex-model Trudy Shingler

She had won a clutch of West Midlands and national beauty queen titles including those of Miss Wolves, Miss Aston Villa and Miss Walsall, as well as Miss Beautiful Eyes, Miss Wordsley, Miss Pelsall, Miss Sutton Coldfield, Miss Wednesbury and Miss River Severn.

The Rushall-born mother-of-one later concentrated on a probation services career, becoming Derbyshire Probation Service's first female forensic psychologist.

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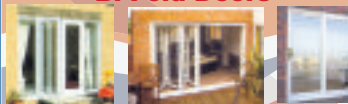
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REVIEW

Graceful young dancers impress on Grand stage

Swan Lake, Wolverhampton Grand ENGLISH National Ballet visit regional theatres to present productions with a core of professional dancers augmented by more than 100 young amateurs from the local area.

They perform an important function in giving youthful enthusiasts their moment in the limelight and perform wonders given the limited amount of rehearsal time with keen but inexperienced children.

Financial constraints means they dance to recorded music rather than a live orchestra.

The highest praise I can give their production of Swan Lake, the best known of all the classical ballets, was that you didn't need to be a relative or friend of the young performers to enjoy it.

This was a quality production. The young dancers from dance schools in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, were well drilled, which was essential with up to 70 performers on stage at one time.

On the Grand's medium-sized stage, so many bodies could have been a recipe for disaster but there were no collisions. Indeed, scenes



Young dancers from the West Midlands performing in Swan Lake at Wolverhampton

that could have been cluttered were instead spectacular and flowed with easy grace.

Not every move was perfectly synchronised, there was the occasional wobble or frown of concentration, and the more demanding choreography was kept to the pros.

Proud

But there was much energy, dynamism and, most importantly, gracefulness from the young performers. Every one of them, girls and boys, can hold their head up

high and feel proud of their achievement.

Partly due to the demands of such a huge cast, the Swan Lake story about the enchanted Odette cursed to turn into a swan and replaced in the prince's affections by the sorcerer's look-alike daughter Odile, was tinkered with.

Odette (white swan) and Odile (black swan), often played by the same ballerina, became rival ballerinas in a Russian ballet company presenting Swan Lake for the royal family.

The choreography was inspired by Marius Petipa's 19th century style and additional dances included a fun stage hands dance, showcasing the boys' abilities, and some cute elements for the very youngest dancers.

As for the pros, Julianne Rice-Oxley was an elegant Odette and Oliver Speers a steadfast and strong Prince Sergei. Canadian ballerina Emma Lister stood out with the dynamism of her wicked black swan Odile, a villainess with verve.

Leon Burakowski

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NEWS

Cash machine gang went on crime spree across UK

A MASKED gang used circular saws to cut into supermarket cash machines across the country during a 14-month crime spree.

Their actions hit victims hard, said a judge as he jailed the four raiders for a total of 24 years.

High-powered cars, including Audis and BMWs, were stolen by the four men, from Walsall and Birmingham, to use during raids and were driven at up to 150mph during police pursuits. Co-op stores were targeted during the crime spree by the group, who wore masks and balaclavas and used axes and hammers to smash through doors.

Petrol-driven circular saws were used to break into the cash machines, Birmingham Crown Court heard last week. A total of £684,210 was stolen during the 30 attacks, and £83,000 was recovered.

Prison

Noel Reilly, aged 33, of Southmead Way, Birchills, and David Holmes, 31, of Perch Road, both Walsall, admitted two charges of conspiring to commit commercial burglaries between September 2010 and November 2011 and burglary in October last year, were each handed seven-year prison sentences.

Simon Phillips, 33, of Hullbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham, who admitted conspiring to commit commercial and house burglaries between September 2010 and October 2011, was jailed for five years.

Darren Buckley, 35, of Hazelville Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, who admitted the same charges, was jailed for five years and seven months.

The men first struck at a Co-op in Maidstone, Kent, escaping with £19,250. Co-op stores in the Park Hall area of Walsall, Solihull, and Northfield and Quinton in Birmingham, were targeted although they fled empty-handed after triggering security devices.

Homes were chosen for stealing car



Noel Reilly, aged 33, of Birchills



David Holmes, aged 31, of Walsall



Sparks fly as gang members use a circular saw to cut open a cash machine

keys, laptops and tablet computers, with one Audi taken from an address in Longford Road, Cannock, in July, 2011.

A break-in at Co-op stores in Knowle and Quinton in June last year sparked a nationwide hunt. The four men were arrested during co-ordinated raids at their homes on September 28 last year.

They were released on police bail. A proceeds of crime hearing is expected to take place next year.

Reilly and Holmes continued to

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NEWS

Top marks at school



Pupils at Rushall Primary School celebrate an outstanding report from school inspectors Ofsted with head-teacher Kate Bargh, left, and deputy head Sue Joberns

A SCHOOL in Walsall is celebrating after chalking up top results in an Ofsted inspection.

Rushall Primary School, which has 232 pupils, received an outstanding rating across the board during an inspection in July. The recently-published report said pupils "thrive" at the school.

Ofsted inspector Mary Davis said pupils made rapid progress and by Year 6, attainment was above the national average in English and maths. She commended the quality of teaching which was ensured through "rigorous monitoring and support and robust management of performance".

Speaking about pupils in the report, she said: "They are kind, polite and welcoming and confident."

"They have an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe, and are confident the school will ensure their safety at all times."

Head Kate Bargh said: "This is true testament to the hard work and dedication of all our staff, pupils, parents and governors."

Panel has key role as children's watchdog

WALSALL Council children's and young people scrutiny and performance panel has a vital role to play in challenging and supporting improvements for the care of vulnerable children in the borough, says its chairman.

Councillor Barbara Cassidy said she wanted to reassure the public that safeguarding will be discussed at every future meeting until it is clear that improvements are sustainable in the long term.

It comes after a damning Ofsted report branded the care of vulnerable youngsters as "inadequate" following an inspection in June.

Councillor Cassidy, of Brownhills ward, said: "It is vital that members receive high quality information so that members are able to monitor improvements in a robust way, as it is clear that this has been lacking in the past."

Vital

"It is vital that we have regular, transparent updates from those directly involved in service improvement, so that parents and children who are on the receiving end of services are reassured that they are as good as they can be."

"I am of the opinion also that there needs to be a much closer link between the scrutiny panel and Walsall safeguarding children board," she added.

New bus to Bilston

A NEW bus service from Willenhall to Bilston via Darlaston was launched on Monday.

Service 30 will run hourly between Cheapside in Willenhall and Bilston bus station four days a week.

Buses will serve the Herberts Park Estate in Darlaston where people said a bus was desperately needed.

The service will be operated by Walsall Community Transport and buses will also go via Moxley High Street.

NEWS

Bursary scheme to help part-time students take courses at college

WALSALL College has launched a new bursary scheme to help part-time students on its university level courses balance the cost of living and studying.

It is in response to the college receiving a number of enquiries from students looking to enrol on university level courses on a part-time rather than full-time basis.

Qualify

The bursary is available to any student on a part-time higher education course at Walsall College and will offer £600 in installments over a year. To qualify students need to maintain an excellent attendance record and submit assignments on time.

Henriette Harnisch, vice-principal of business and partnerships at Walsall College, said: "We have introduced this new bursary as we are committed to ensuring that every student is able to study at a higher level of education and achieve their potential, regardless of their financial circumstances."

"With HNC and HND courses costing significantly less than equivalent university courses, Walsall College is already a cost-effective route to achieving a degree."

"But with the rising cost of living, we want to ensure higher education is accessible to everyone," she added.

Tougher test ahead for new taxi drivers

TOUGHER tests for people wanting to become taxi drivers in Walsall are to come into force.

General conversational skills in English, simple maths and map-reading exercises are currently assessed in a free 30-to-40-minute test.

But, under new proposals, the test would become longer and tougher and there would be a charge of £5. It comes after Walsall Council's licensing and safety committee and taxi licensing sub-committees called for more robust English tests.

It is thought the main reason for the majority of people failing their assessment is because of poor conversational English.

by Lisa O'Brien

Discussions are now taking place between the council and Walsall Adult and Community College about delivering a new form of assessment.

Maths

A qualified assessor from the college would raise any initial issues by carrying out a pre-assessment before applicants undertake a 45-minute test covering reading, listening and maths skills.

Those that pass would be able to then undertake the training course conducted by the local authority.

Councillor Zahid Ali, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for public protection, welcomed the plans.

He said: "Taxi drivers

offer the public a very personal service and new drivers need to be able to understand and be understood."

He added: "I welcome these changes for new drivers."

Joanne Keatley, director for curriculum and learning at Walsall Adult and Community College, said: "The college is in discussions with the council to take on the English skills assessment for new applicants who want to become taxi drivers."

"We expect to take on this responsibility later this year."

But Zulf Ali, of the Private Hire Taxi Association in Walsall, said complaints about language skills amongst taxi drivers were minimal. He said there was no need for the new tests.

NEWS in brief

OAPs win zebra crossing revamp

ROAD safety markings have been improved on a busy road in Walsall.

A zebra crossing on Darlaston Road has been realigned and repainted following complaints from pensioners over problems crossing the road.

Chris Bott, Independent councillor for Darlaston South, said: "A lot of pensioners said they were having difficulty crossing at the zebra crossing so we pushed for it to be realigned. The work has all been done now and we've had calls from a lot of people saying it is much better now."

Top darts players are coming to NIA

THE McCoy's Premier League Darts will return to the NIA in Birmingham on April 25 next year.

The world's leading eight players, led by reigning champion Phil Taylor and current World Champion Adrian Lewis, will compete in the tournament. Tickets go on sale on October 15 for the league night at the NIA.

DIY store staff go back to classroom

CUSTOMER service advisors at a do-it-yourself chain have been brushing up on decorating skills at Walsall College on a tailor-made course.

The 15 Homebase staff completed a painting and decorating course received level one City and Guilds certificates.

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LETTERS

Disgusted by bonuses at council

IN the current economic climate I am disgusted to learn that in the past two years council taxpayers' money has been paid out in bonuses to some of the highest earning senior officers in Walsall to the tune of £90,466 - for simply doing their job!

Surely, when being paid a generous salary, all targets should be met, and if not, penalties incurred, certainly not a carrot dangled to improve performance.

Why has it taken until now to abolish this performance-related cash pot to these already high earners, when most of us have been feeling the pinch on a fraction of their income for years?

MRS PAT HILL,
Albert Clarke Drive,
Willenhall

Face the facts before it's too late for shops

REFERENCE your article about the response of Cllr Andrew to the report on shop vacancies in Walsall.

So the report is negative, but so are the facts! I walked from Bradford Place through the old arcade, then left to the market, and then through Old Square. Whatever the reason, the number of empty shops is more than just worrying.

It seems to me, as an amateur, that the more shops become empty, the fewer people go to that area, and the consequent reduction in footfall means that the remaining shops suffer because of a lack of potential customers. It's a downward spiral.

So, Cllr Andrew, the facts are there, but could it be that you are annoyed because the truth sometimes hurts? I admit that I don't have the answer, but then, I'm not in your job with its salary and duties.

T M LOUGHER,
Walsall

Scrap stretch of bus lane on narrow road

FOLLOWING your recent story about the proposed cameras to nab motorists using bus lanes and mention of the problems relating to one bus lane in particular, namely the Bloxwich Road bus lane, I have received many calls from people agreeing with me that the stretch of bus lane from the Walsall Leisure Centre to the Leamore traffic lights on the Bloxwich Road, should be scrapped.

Let me make it clear that I fully support the council's general policy to ensure that bus lanes are kept clear when the restrictions are in force.

However, I believe that this particular stretch of bus lane needs closer scrutiny. If cameras are deployed here to nab those using the bus lane, then it will be a real, though unjustifiable, cash cow for Walsall Council. It is almost impossible NOT to go into the bus lane if travelling from Bloxwich to Walsall along the Bloxwich Road on the stretch approaching the Leamore traffic lights.

To avoid the bus lane would drastically increase the chances of regular accidents due to on-coming traffic, narrowness of the

road, compounded by parked traffic on the opposite side of the road.

I am calling on Cllr Tom Ansell, Portfolio Holder for Transport, to give serious consideration to this concern.

I call on him to consider scrapping this one short stretch of bus lane completely, as the dangers are already there, even without cameras geared to fining motorists that use them in peak hours.

It would be totally unreasonable to fine those who are forced to use the bus route as they approach the Leamore traffic lights coming from Bloxwich and therefore I call on Cllr Ansell to give an assurance that the camera will not be used on this particular stretch of the bus lane.

If cameras are deployed there, many will see this as a cynical attempt to cash in by the cash-strapped council so as to compensate for the loss of revenue in the council's car parks.

If this happens I anticipate public anger and appeal after appeal by those ensnared. I hope that common sense prevails.

COUNCILLOR PETE SMITH
Democratic Labour, Blakenall Ward

LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Shoppers greeted by a filthy corridor

WALSALL continues to attract criticism over its appeal to shoppers, and planners and developers have clearly played a part.

Considering your previous reports on this subject may I observe the following:

Greeting visitors at Walsall Bus Station is a filthy corridor to the High Street strewn with litter and graffiti - why was money spent unnecessarily on Butlers Passage, that is not the main outlet from the terminus.

It appears that the main arcade may now be spruced up but this does not excuse the years of damage to this town's reputation while this focal area has been neglected.

Planners have progressively developed shopping facilities on the edge of town while destroying the original character of the town centre and its market that provided an attractive and popular venue over many years to the 1990s.

A town 'vibrates' from its centre - have we not learned this lesson?

CONCERNED,
name and address supplied

Praise for the officers who show they care

WHILE away in Wales my home in Brownhills was broken into. Fortunately a neighbour spotted the broken panel in the door and called the police.

I cannot praise the police officers based at Walsall and Brownhills enough. From the moment the incident was reported the police did everything possible to help. This involved tracking down my mobile telephone number to contact me to make me aware of the burglary and making the house secure. The next day police came out to take statements and finger prints. A further visit was made by local police in Brownhills who had seen my address on the crime report and called to check on the situation. They also brought several crime prevention aids for the house.

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MRS S VASTON,
Brownhills

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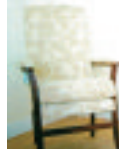
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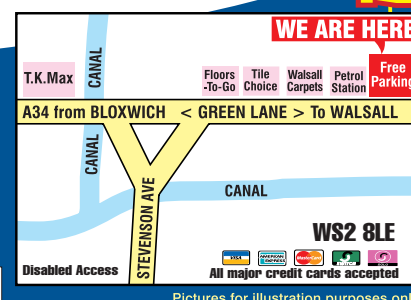
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CLUB NEWS

It's a hive of activity at bee talk

TRYSULL & SEISDON WI

THERE was no meeting in August but some members met up for a walk followed by lunch at the Boycott Arms.

The weather was kind and the sun shone as the ladies rambled from the pub through Claverley and back again. The club also provided cream teas at the Elms when it opened the gardens as part of the National Garden Scheme.

September's speaker was Phil Healey, the Honey Man. Phil used to teach rural sciences at Highfields School and he became interested in bees about 30 years ago.

He looks after 50 colonies of bees and also set up a bee colony in a school in Gambia. The group was shown how a hive is constructed. The bees can make their own wax, which is used in a series of hexagons.

The queen bee stays at the bottom of the hive where she lays 2,000 eggs a day for three months. The worker bees are the females. They collect pollen, nectar, water and a type of glue, which they take back to the hive. The honey comes from the nectar.

To round off the evening Phil had brought some jars of home-made honey to sell. Mary Farquharson won the unusual jug competition.

The next meeting is on October 11 at Trysull Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Warden's view of unique common

WOMBOURNE WI

SPEAKER for September was Jeff Sim, the Highgate Common Community Warden.

This trust began working on the common in 2009 relying on subscriptions and lottery money to fund their work.

After giving a brief resume of the trust's aims, Jeff described the common and how unique it is. Insects are the hub of the common and are the basis of the food chain for all the creatures who live there.

Jeff and his team, including volunteers, meet every Tuesday to clear bramble, open up areas to allow heather and such like to grow, cut down unwanted trees and try to rid the common of Himalayan Balsam before it seeds.

With lottery grants, new toilets, car parking, signs, office space and lecture room have been added, while paths have been flattened for easier wheel-chair and push-chair access.

Jeff is very dedicated to and enthusiastic about his work. His superb talk, with slides, was very much appreciated.



Guest speaker - Highgate Common warden Jeff Sim

Group told of love for Nepal

LONGDON WI

MEMBERS may have been initially puzzled why the speaker, Margaret Cross, requested two large tables prior to her talk. It soon became clear when masses of multi-coloured fabrics were displayed.

Margaret had come to give some insight into her fascination and love of Nepal - a country she had become

introduced to when her husband, an Army officer, had been posted there.

She gave some interesting accounts of her experiences and then proceeded to show everyone all the various fabric lengths, which were in fact saris. Several members

were very pleased to learn the process of fixing the cloth into place and with much patience and some amusemen all were eventually attired in a sari.

This was a good start to the autumn season when events include a quiz night at St James' school hall on October 5.

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NEWS

Rachael sheds more than 10st with Zumba and diet

MOST women dream about the moment they walk down the aisle. But, despite being in a loving relationship, the idea filled Rachael Doyle with dread – because of her weight.

At her heaviest two years ago, the mother-of-three from Walsall tipped the scales at 22st 5lbs and was wearing a size 24 or 26.

But, with help from Weight Watchers classes and fast-paced Zumba sessions, she has now shed more than 10 stones, dropped down to just over 12st and fits into size 12 or 14 clothes.

The 30-year-old will also be getting married next year. Miss Doyle, of Wye Road, Bloxwich, said: "The weight started to pile on when I was a teenager. I tried all sorts of diets but none worked.

Tablets

"I went to my doctor a number of times but he just sent me to the nurse. She gave me some tablets that stop you from digesting fat from your food.

"They helped me lose about a stone but then again I gave up.

"Then each time I got pregnant, more and more weight crept on.

"Eventually, I was wearing the biggest-sized clothes I could get my hands on and knew I had to do something.

"I started going to weekly Weight Watchers meetings and I've been doing Zumba over the last year once or twice a week. Since then,



At her heaviest she was more than 22 stone



Rachael's old clothes swamp her

I've seen the inches drop off my arms and everywhere else.

"As I was losing weight and found out I was still a long way from my goal weight, at one point it was like someone had stuck a knife in me. I went home and cried and said to myself and friends I can't do this anymore and was going to give up.

"Then something clicked because I knew I would end up back where I started because of my love for food."

She said her confidence had grown and she was now planning a wedding to her

fiance Andrew Stokes after a six-year engagement.

"I used to worry about people looking at me but now I can walk down the street with my head held high," she added. "I can play with my children, wear the clothes I want to wear and my partner can put his arms around me."

"We've been engaged for years but I've never had the confidence to set a date. We have now – we're getting married next July at St James The Great church in Norton Canes.

"I've already got my wedding dress.

"I couldn't have done it without the support of my Weight Watcher leader, my partner, children and family."

Beverley Longsdon, 42, who runs Weight Watchers sessions at St Johns Methodist Church in Bloxwich, has supported Rachael during her weight-loss journey.

She said: "What she's done is tremendous. I've watched her go from a girl that was so self-conscious to her coming in one week wearing a maxi dress.

"She is so much happier."

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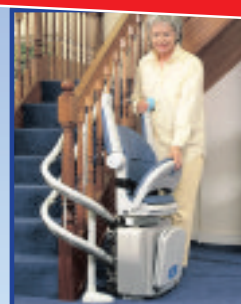
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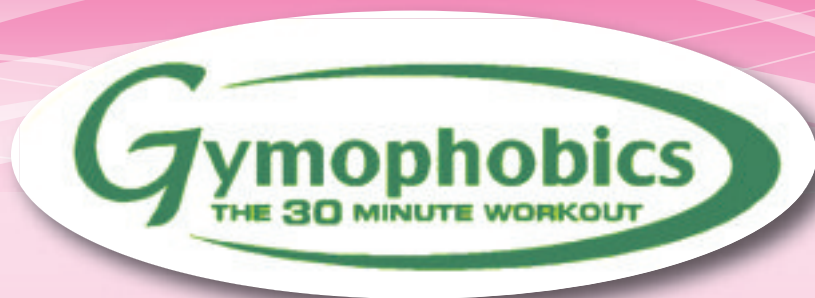
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NEWS

Have a say on council tax benefits

RESIDENTS of Walsall are being urged to have their say on proposed changes to council tax benefits.

National changes are coming into force next April after the Government cut funding it gives local authorities for the benefit.

In Walsall, this will leave council bosses facing a £3.3 million shortfall.

But it has been decided for the year ahead, the council will plug that funding gap itself and find savings elsewhere.

All councils have been required to put a system of local council tax support in place. Councillor Mike Flower, chairman of the corporate scrutiny and performance panel, said: "We would urge people to take part in the consultation."

"Members of the public are welcome to attend our meeting in October."

Members of the corporate scrutiny and performance panel will discuss the results of the consultation at their meeting on October 23.

NEWS

in brief

Step into the past at shoe exhibition

A FEW weeks remain to see an exhibition at Walsall Museum that looks at the history of children's footwear.

Children's Shoes is on show at the venue in Lichfield Street until October 6.

The display draws upon the museum's own clothing collection to illustrate changes in footwear from the 19th century to today.

Items include a pair of sturdy Victorian wooden clogs and shoes from the 1940s and '50s.

Walsall Museum is open Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

Free opportunity to find the right fit

A FREE festival of sports and keep fit activities is taking place at Darlaston town hall on Saturday.

Darlaston Sports Festival will take place from 11am to 3pm.

There will be a variety of activities to try out such as Zumba, Boxercise and Tai Chi.

Coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan

A RESIDENTS association will be holding a Macmillan coffee morning in Walsall on September 28.

The Autumn Close Residents Association will hold the event at Autumn Close Community Centre in Pelsall from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Brewery and museum ideas for hall future

AN HISTORIC hall could be transformed into a micro-brewery, museum or apartments under options being considered by specialist architects.

New owners have issued a questionnaire to thousands of homes which asks residents what they want to see Great Barr Hall become.

Options for the hall, which stands near junction 7 of the M6, are listed in the questionnaire by Lapworth Architects. Facilities which could be included are a gym, arts centre, hotel, and a community centre.

Project

Any potential scheme is already being hailed the biggest restoration project in Walsall in the past five to 10 years, as the building has stood empty since 1978.

At the moment, developers are testing the waters with residents over what they want.



Great Barr Hall would be a massive restoration project

Mike Lapworth, of Lapworth Architects, said they had been inundated with replies.

He said: "We have had hundreds of replies back to the questionnaire."

"This is the first stage of a consultation on what residents want for the future of the hall."

"Our aim is to create something sustainable and it's

important we do what the local community want."

The Great Barr Hall Action Committee, supported by Beacon Action Group, initially criticised its new owners for not holding a public meeting on their plans for the derelict premises.

The new owners, a consortium of 10 local business men and professionals, have said a meeting will be held.

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MEMORY LANE



The opening of the New Britannia Picture Co, in Rosemary Road



After the theatre's closure, but the Thacker's shop is still thriving



The old Britannia building pictured here in the 1950s as a garage



The Edalji family, whose story features in the new book

Village history is brought to book

A GROUP of researchers from Cheslyn Hay Historical Society are about to launch the third volume of their popular local history book this weekend.

Cheslyn Hay Lives: Volume Three is the result of 12 months worth of hard work by the team of six researchers. The book contains 64 pages of history from the surrounding area illustrated with around 110 pictures from the society's archive.

The first chapter deals with the details of the Edalji Story, a national news story in the early 1900s that called upon the services of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Shapurji Edalji was possibly one of Cheslyn Hay's most controversial vicars, whose son, George was imprisoned for four years after being suspected of illegally slaughtering a number of animals.

Other chapters include the detailed history of Joe Baker a local man whose family history reads like the script of a television drama.

The book also features an in-depth look into old editions of local newspapers going

by Tom Mason

back more than 100 years plus a chapter dedicated to the history of local buildings and Shops including the changing site of the Old Britannia Picture House, in Rosemary Road, now occupied by Liberty Court flats.

Author Trevor McFarlane, aged 73, has been with the society for 11 years.

He said: "The interest from the public to date has been amazing."

The group relies upon donations from members of the public to keep its vast archives updated.

Trevor added: "We get a lot of people sending us pictures especially after the death of a relative, but unfortunately I often speak to people who tell me they threw a load of pictures out."

He said previous years had seen volumes sell out by Christmas, so the limited run of 1,000 costing £4 are not likely to last long. The book is due to be released at the annual Cheslyn Hay exhibition at the Village Hall in Pinfold Lane on Saturday September 29 from 10am till 5pm.



Trevor McFarlane and Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society members



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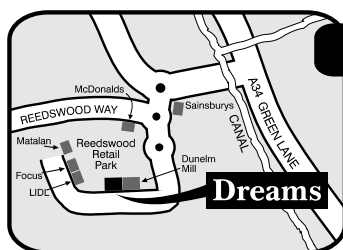
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NEWS

New database to fight fire risk

A NEW database has been launched aiming to help reduce fire-related incidents across Walsall.

West Midlands Fire Service has teamed up with Walsall Housing Group to enable key information to be shared between the two organisations under an 'incident flagging system'.

The database will give local fire crews access to information about the

housing association's 18,000 homes, allowing them to identify those tenants who may be at greater risk.

Educate

Commander Sean Tomkins, of the arson task force at West Midlands Fire Service, said: "By sharing the information, we can help identify properties at greater risk of fire and hopefully prevent injury to tenants and damage to homes."

"Before, it would have been harder for the fire crew to see if a home had been visited before. But this system makes it easier for everyone to capture developing trends and take action."

He said it would help to educate residents and prevent serious incidents.

"Often a second call-out, or frequent call-outs, means a resident may be finding it more difficult to cope living alone, so might be forgetting to turn the oven off for example," he said.

Toast is raised to pub at care home



RESIDENTS at a Great Wyrley care home can now relax and pass their time away in their very own pub.

The Lakeside Returns, complete with a traditional bar, stools and even a piano, has opened at Waters Edge with a Hawaiian-themed party.

Residents can drink for free but family and friends have been asked to make donations. Donna Marshall, aged 28, from Bloxwich, is a team leader at the nursing home and said the pub was made possible thanks to fundraising.

She said residents were loving the new addition as it was somewhere where they could socialise and relax together, playing darts or cards.

Deputy home manager Gail Hall was also heavily involved in the project, with her 26-year-old builder nephew Sean Rowley creating the bar over eight weeks, free of charge.

Authentic

To ensure the pub is as authentic as possible, staff spent £800 on stools and tables from Banks's Brewery. There is one difference to normal boozers, though, last orders are called at 8pm.

Miss Marshall said: "Previously it was just a lounge that was not being used. Now we've come up with a bar instead."

Drinks available behind the bar include gin, rum, Campari, bitters and whisky.

Fred Ward, resident, aged 86, has given the pub the thumbs up. He said: "I was here for the party to open the pub." Fellow resident Maria Harbridge, aged 90, said: "It's nice we have somewhere to go and have a drink."

Cheers - staff Dean Wood and Donna Marshall with residents Maria Harbridge, aged 90 and Fred Ward, 86, in the care home's own pub

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Monday: Enjoy breakfast, then we board the coach to Liverpool. The coach will park up in the new Liverpool ONE shopping centre area which is right in the city centre so if you want a change from the shops, everything else is on your doorstep including: Albert Dock, here you'll find The Beatles Story and many other attractions. We leave Liverpool mid-afternoon for home.

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Look what's included...

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Day 2 Monday: Breakfast, then we go up to the Lake District where you'll have time to yourself in Bowness and Ambleside before we leave for home, arriving back early evening.

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Look what's included...

Join our coach on Sunday morning for a leisurely journey to the Lake District. Our first stop is the charming village of Cartmel, spend a leisurely hour here, then go on to our hotel with time to settle-in and freshen-up before dinner this evening. **Monday:** Enjoy a hearty breakfast prior to a special day in the Lake District. The coach will take you to Haverthwaite to board a steam train for a short journey through the beautiful scenery of the Leven Valley to Lakeside. Here, we board a boat for a 40 minute cruise on stunning Lake Windermere to Bowness. Enjoy some free time in Bowness including time for lunch if you wish.

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Day 2: Enjoy breakfast, then we'll head for York - the Christmas markets are yours to explore, shop, eat, drink and soak up the festive atmosphere made all the better for the historic location. York Minster is also a treat at this time of year if you have time to pop in for a while. We leave York around 4pm for home.

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NEWS

Toni's head for business after shock of losing hair

WHEN Toni Astbury's hair started coming out in clumps the young hairdresser was devastated.

For most women their locks are their crowning glory but stress had led the 24-year-old from Darlaston to suffer from alopecia.

The mother-of-one she was bullied for wearing wigs and even had to suffer people pulling them off when she was enjoying a night out with friends.

But now Toni has had the last laugh as she runs Precious Heads from her home in Midland Road where her hand-made wigs sell for more than £2,000.

Daughter

The former Darlaston Community School pupil thanks her one-year-old daughter Evie Rose for giving her the strength she needed to stand before a panel of judges at the Prince's Trust.

"After I had my daughter I wanted to do something amazing, for her and for other people," says Toni, who was also a pupil at Old Church Primary School.

"I put together my business plan and went to the Prince's Trust – it was like standing before the Dragon's Den panel. They asked me a lot of questions and were really excited about it as it was something totally different – and I was going to be helping people with hair loss."

Toni was told that day that she had been successful and was awarded £4,000 – they also asked her to be a young ambassador for the trust.

"It was amazing and I phoned everyone, I was so excited," she says.

"I had to wait for the funding to come through and then two weeks later I was at the UK Wig School in London where they taught me everything I needed to know."

That was two years ago and Toni is now in demand with her hand-made wigs which take around 50 hours to make.

It was at the Olympics that cyclist



Toni Astbury, from Darlaston, has made a success of her wig business

Joanna Rowsell stunned the crowd when, after completing a lap of honour to celebrate winning a gold medal, she pulled off her hat to proudly reveal her bald head. The 23-year-old says her hair loss has helped drive her on to greatness at the velodrome.

Probably the most famous woman to proudly show off her bald head is former model Gail Porter. The former pin-up girl – whose naked image was famously projected on to the side of the House of Commons – rose to fame on children's television in the '90s and was at one time among the highest-paid women on television.

The TV presenter lost her trademark blonde hair as a result of alopecia – a condition which affects around one in 100 people in the UK.

Toni says when she lost her own hair she could only afford synthetic wigs, which you can't style yourself.

"I prefer the real hair wigs – you can use products and curl it or straighten it

yourself like normal hair," she says. "The hair comes from India and is very natural. They don't use chemicals on it like we do in the UK."

After leaving school Tony trained in hairdressing at Walsall College and travelled the world on cruise ships.

"I'm not sure what triggered the hair loss. I was working at a hair salon at the time and it was hard – I didn't go out for a while which was strange for me as I was always known as the party girl."

Toni, who lives with her parents, regularly makes wigs from 8am to 10pm, working around the needs of her daughter.

"My clients are a mixture of people from children who suffer with cancer through to alopecia sufferers like myself," she explained, adding: "My hair started growing back around a year ago but it is really fine and soon it will start falling out again – that's when I will go back to wearing wigs."

Cathy Spencer

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REVIEWS

No lack of talent in fitting tribute

Follow That Dream, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

TO say there was a deserved winner of this £1,000 talent show contest would be a slight on the other contestants. However, I think the judges just about called it right.

Beth Peach-Robinson, a singer from Featherstone, is already at the Royal Academy in London and the prize money will go towards her first year expenses.

She was the first of the finalists to perform with Don't Rain On My

Parade and was evidently nervous, but grew better as the evening wore on to earn the panel's vote.

Judge Kelvin Broomhead said all six were winners, and there was no disputing that. The diverse talent ranged from dance, performed admirably by Mia Stapleton, aged just 11 and performances from Layla Shirley, who acted out scenes from Chekhov and Shakespeare, singers Luke Groves, Victoria Tew and the operatic voice of Grace Wyatt, who would have been a popular winner. Local boy made good

Andy Reiss acted as compere and performed both with his harmony group Ovation and judge Katie Leeming, a fellow member of Beyond the Barricade.

There's no doubt all performers have a promising future ahead of them, particularly if they take on board the constructive criticism offered by the judges. And, while there could only be one overall winner, it was a fitting tribute to the Melanie Till Memorial Fund.

Mark Shipp

Big noise as Little Voice brings the house down

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
SHOUT it from the rooftops as loud as can be. What an excellent production.

Expertly cast with Jess Robinson simply wonderful in the leading role, Jim Cartwright's Rise and Fall of Little Voice was heartwarming, funny and poignant all in one.

Stage management and effects were second to none and I challenge anyone seeing the show this week not to make a big noise about it.

Damaged

Robinson, for me, was not only a par with Jane Horrocks' film portrayal, but, I would say, even better. She didn't say much early on, of course, but once the Dead Ringers star found her voice, it brought the house down, quite like the fire that led to her records being damaged. That scene itself was excellently staged.

Beverley Callard played LV's coarse mother Mari Hoff and pulled it off a treat, even down to the skimpy outfits one would expect her to wear for her role as Liz McDonald in Coronation



Cast members Joe McGann, Bev Callard, Jess Robinson and Ray Quinn

Street. Her partnership with next door neighbour Sadie (Sally Plumb) was often hilarious, particularly their dance to the Jackson 5.

Joe McGann, as the impresario Ray Say, was not quite as edgy as Michael Caine in the film, but take nothing

away from his, or Ray Quinn's performances. Duggie Brown as club owner Mr Boo played it for laughs, and occasionally got them!

Little Voice runs at the Grand until Saturday (September 29).

Mark Shipp

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NEWS

Doug takes the reins as volunteer at Paralympics

WHEN former mounted policeman Doug Smith broke his back in a fall from his horse in 1995, it opened up another world.

Doug has gone on to volunteer at three Paralympic Games and says: "It was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Dough, aged 61, is now a regional director and instructor with the Riding for the Disabled Association.

The charity helped to bring him out of a dark place as he verged on clinical depression in the aftermath of his horrific injury, and within a year he was in Atlanta helping at the first ever Paralympic equestrian event.

Four years later he volunteered at Sydney and it was only his commitments with the RDA that prevented him from also travelling to Athens and Beijing.

Abilities

Doug was able to volunteer for the London Games only after completing a 10-year stint as chairman of the RDA's flagship national championships event which brings together hundreds of competitors of all abilities in a range of riding events.

Four of the five British Paralympic riders at London came up through the Warwick-based organisation, including Staffordshire's Lee Pearson who won team gold, and individual silver and bronze.

Doug, of Belmont Avenue, Shoal Hill, describes the USA Games as "character-building", with disabled riders unable to use their own horses.

Instead they "borrowed" horses from a pool of around 100.

"There was an element of a lottery about it but in a way it was fairer because their performances were down to their own skills and not how good a

horse they were able to afford. Sydney was fantastic. Until London, it was the best Games. It was the last of the borrowed horses competitions but it was a slicker operation. I made friends with other volunteers in Australia and Atlanta who I still visit, and who come here to see me.

"But London was phenomenal—they got the planning so right, they got the right people in place and the public's response was excellent." Doug still rides a little — "although I shouldn't" — but is careful, avoiding "silly" horses and he no longer jumps.

He is currently helping to train 14-year-old Olivia Wilson, from Cannock, a blind rider and Rio hopeful, who is among 35 disabled riders based with the Stafford and District RDA group. "It's not all about the Paralympics but there's no doubt that competition is therapy."

"I still miss my job till it hurts but my work with the RDA and the Paralympics is totally addictive."



Doug Smith, who has been an equestrian volunteer at three Paralympics, with 14-year-old Olivia Wilson, 2016 Rio Games hopeful

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Offering a good learning environment for classes



Wraparound care now available full-time at Glenthorne Community Primary School in the heart of Cheslyn Hay

GLENTHORNE Community Primary School is now able to offer a full time Wraparound Nursery within a small school with a family atmosphere.

Wraparound Care Club manager Jen Edwards is pleased to announce the school will be able to offer a complete nursery service from 8am to 5.30pm if needed.

Glenthorne is a small village primary school situated in the heart of Cheslyn Hay, just off Station Street. The school is set in its own grounds with two playgrounds and an outdoor classroom. It is the only single form entry school in Cheslyn Hay and prides itself on knowing all its children well. Nursery children will have direct

access to their own playground with soft pore covering. They have their own class teacher in the morning and have Wraparound care from 11.45am with experienced, long-serving staff all with NVQ level 3 qualifications. Wraparound Care has rates per hour meaning children can stay all day or just for an extra hour.

Teaching

Glenthorne offers a good learning environment for classes and welcomes all children and families from all faiths and backgrounds.

The school focuses on the needs of the individual child and ensures each and every child gets a good education. All teaching is good from highly qualified staff. A new curriculum for Sep-

tember 2012, going above and beyond the National Curriculum requirements, will provide fantastic experiences and opportunities for children to develop and make their learning journey relevant and fun.

Children at Glenthorne are encouraged to take up hobbies and interests in extra curricular clubs ranging from tag rugby to Glee, science to football and many others. This will help them to develop into well rounded, confident and capable individuals.

Communication between school and home is a major strength. The school believe a strong relationship between parents and school ensures the best start in life for every child.

For more on the school, visit www.glenthorne.staffs.sch.uk

Walsall Academy is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for **Year 7** and **Sixth Form** September 2013



Sixth Form applications will be accepted throughout the academic year.



The closing date for Year 7 Registration is **Friday 5th October 2012**



Information Evenings will be held in the Autumn Term
contact the school for details

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NEWS

Fall in use of surveillance cameras by authority

THE use of surveillance powers to catch fraudsters and fly-tippers across Walsall has dropped to an average of less than four times a month.

Over four years Walsall Council has been the biggest user of spy powers in the Black Country and Staffordshire. Regulatory Investigatory Powers (RIPA) are used to catch benefit cheats, fly-tippers and rogue traders.

But some campaigners have fears over the use of the law. Big Brother Watch has called for a clampdown on its use, saying the powers are open to abuse.

Latest figures for Walsall, show RIPA was used 11 times in the first three months of the year between April 1 and June 30.

In the 12 months overall last year, it was used a total of 67 times, while from April 2009 to March 2010 the powers were adopted 96 times.

Investigation

In the first three months this year, they were used twice in a benefit investigation, five times for anti-social behaviour enforcement and four times by trading standards. This can be for the likes of underage test purchasing, taxis plying for hire, counterfeit goods,

fly-tipping or enforcement of litter regulations.

Council chiefs have defended the use of RIPA saying it ensures decisive action to catch benefit cheats, rogue traders and helps to tackle anti-social behaviour. One woman caught on camera dumping rubbish out of the back of a car was hit with a £1,200 bill.

The council purchased six undercover cameras as part of its ongoing war against fly-tipping last autumn.

A report to the council's audit committee says the authority was inspected and cleared to adopt RIPA by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner.

Revamp is under way on landmark



Councillor Adrian Andrew at Barr Beacon memorial WORK has begun on the £440,000 restoration of Walsall's landmark Barr Beacon war memorial after repeated attacks by metal thieves.

The Raising the Barr project also plans to bring the Barr Beacon memorial into the 21st century with the development of a dedicated Smartphone App, Facebook page and Twitter feed to encourage people to keep up with developments.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, chairman of the Barr Beacon Trust, said: "This is a fantastic day for everyone who cares about Barr Beacon's rich past and its exciting future."

"The In Memoriam 2014 scheme is helping us to tackle the thoughtless minority who want to spoil this landmark and insult the memories of servicemen and women it honours."

A security scheme will see the plaques on all 20 of the area's war memorials marked in a bid to stem the thefts.

New academy building taking shape with year until opening

A TOPPING-OUT ceremony has been held at a £27 million school in Darlaston.

Students, staff and special guests joined together on the site of the new Grace Academy building in Herberts Park Road, Darlaston, to mark the completion of the highest parts of the new building.

Principal David Shaw said: "The students, staff and community are excited about the new facilities, such as 3G sports pitch, lecture theatre, wireless internet enabled building, and modern bright classrooms

that will be available to use this time next year when the new academy is opened. "With our students and staff having achieved a 100 per cent pass rate at A-level this year, I look forward to showing that Darlaston has a positive future as we work together to support more and more of our young people into university, employment or further training."

The new academy building is due to be completed in summer 2013, with teaching due to commence in September next year.

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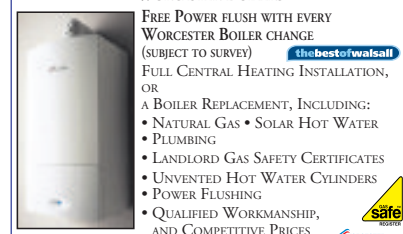
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NEWS

Explore flexible new way to view the E&S website

THE Express & Star website has never been easier to read, thanks to state-of-the-art technology that allows it to automatically adapt between a desktop computer, tablet and mobile phone.

Publisher the Midland News Association believes it is the first UK news company to introduce a system that resizes the layout according to the size of each user's screen.

That means that you will be able to navigate the site at ease, whether you are at home in front of the computer or using your smart phone on the bus.

With one of the fastest growing online regional audiences, the MNA has introduced the new flexible technology to help users and also to increase response rates for advertisers.

Rather than creating apps for iPad or iPhone, the websites are published using a single layout, which automatically changes according to the device.

Swipe

The move means that instead of booking individual adverts for each platform, advertisers can take out a single campaign to appear on all devices.

The sites also feature enhanced features including swipe functionality for pictures galleries, increased image sizes and improved navigation.

The Express & Star site went live yesterday after the successful launch of the responsive website for sister title the Shropshire Star last month.

Managing director Phil Inman said: "We believe we are the first publisher in the UK to launch a website that responds to the way that the user is accessing it, reinforcing our desire to



Three devices, one website – how E&S coverage adapts to your screen

be customer driven. The MNA's audience on mobile devices and tablets is growing so we wanted to ensure that users got the same excellent experience, matching that of desktop visitors.

"The new website will mean we can give digital advertisers the best possible response across all platforms."

Editor Adrian Faber said the new website would ensure Express & Star readers got the best possible service across print and online.

Reflects

He added: "The launch of the new website is just the latest chapter in the Express & Star's history of innovation."

"Our editorial team works hard to produce the best content in the regional press for readers, whether they read the paper, our website or the successful page turning apps."

The launch is the culmination of

nine months of work by the in-house MNA Digital team, led by digital development manager Mark Cadman.

It also reflects a big increase in the number of readers accessing the Express & Star using their mobile.

The paper's mobile audience has doubled in the last year, with almost a third of visits now coming via handheld devices.

Figures show the MNA's online network continues to be one of the fastest growing in the UK, with monthly unique users to the company's websites during January to June 2012 up 33.8 per cent year on year.

Expressandstar.com performed strongly with a 33.5 per cent rise in average monthly uniques to 913,334.

All the Chronicle editions can be viewed through the website

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FOCUS ON ALDRIDGE

American insight for students



Back home from the USA – Madeleine Turner, Ben Pickering and Alice Rhind-Tutt at Aldridge School

STUDENTS from Aldridge School went to America to find out more about political and economic life stateside.

Three students from Aldridge were among a select group from the UK chosen for the two-week trip to New York, Boston, Washington and Ohio.

Year 11 students Madeleine Turner and Ben Pickering spent their time studying business economics while Alice Rhind-Tutt hit the US presidential election trail.

Alice listened to Michelle Obama and Chelsea Clinton's campaign speeches for the Democrats.

Madeleine and Ben met with business people ranging from Vermont farmers to staff at Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory and visited prestigious Harvard University. Headteacher David Mountney said: "It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip."

Shopping precinct's flower display 'intoxicates' judges

THE Aldridge in Bloom team has been nominated to represent the West Midlands in the urban community category of next year's Britain in Bloom.

by Tom Mason

This is the third year that the dedicated team of keen gardeners were involved in Heart of England in Bloom, having already received silver and silver-gilt awards in previous years.

Thanks to a new partnership with Walsall council, the Lions and Rotary clubs and Aldridge Business Partnership, they have gone on to win Heart of England in Bloom gold award for the displays in Aldridge.

Chairman of Aldridge Business Partnership and Aldridge in Bloom, Mariah Cooke said: "It was a surprise to hear we had won. It takes high standards to get gold and we are very proud to be nominated for Britain in Bloom."

As owner of Jewellery and Gifts in the shopping precinct, she has noticed the difference the competition has made to local businesses. She said: "The public have commented on how clean, tidy and attractive Aldridge is looking and we have seen more elderly people enjoying the new seating."

Plans are under way to install more seating and plant more wild flowers in Anchor Meadow in hopes of wowing the Britain in Bloom

judges. Mariah added: "I would like to thank everyone that was involved and encourage others in the community to join in."

Judges praised the team's hard work and vision and said the jewel in the crown was the shopping precinct which, according to the report, "visually intoxicates" the judges.

Pride

Regeneration boss at Walsall Council, Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "These awards encourage a sense of ownership and community renewal, they build civic pride."

"There is a lot of hard work which takes place all-year round, so residents can feel proud of the communities they live in and visitors will be stimulated."

Regeneration officer Diane Mansell said: "This shows what can be achieved by a genuine partnership between local people, community groups and the council."

To get involved with Aldridge in Bloom contact Mariah Cooke on (01922) 457242.



Aldridge in Bloom won gold for their efforts in the town, pictured in The Square are the winning team with chairman of Aldridge in Bloom Maria Cooke holding the certificate – next they represent their region nationwide

The heat is on for pizza chef

A PIZZA chef from an Aldridge restaurant has been selected to take part in Britain's Pizza Chef of the Year Competition.

David Hurst, 34, of Lichfield, is one of seven competitors from the West Midlands to be taking part in the competition run by The Pizza, Pasta & Italian Food Association. It requires each competitor to create four unique recipes in front of a panel of judges.

Recipes

David beat other local chefs to get to the Midlands heat at Freshway Chilled Foods in Wolverhampton on October 17.

Mr Hurst has been perfecting his four new pizza recipes as a part-time chef at Portobello's Italian Restaurant in Aldridge High Street.

This will be the second time he has got to a final after he drew last year at the event's Bristol heat.

Walk raises £9k

CHARITY group Rosie's Helping Hands are celebrating the success of its annual fundraising walk.

The event took place on July 15 and saw thousands of people taking part at Aldridge airfield.

Due to heavy rain the day before, the usual walk had to be abandoned but people still managed to complete laps of the airfield in order to raise a total of more than £9,000. Organisers gave special thanks to the Air Cadet Squadrons and Aldridge Scouts who helped the day run smoothly.



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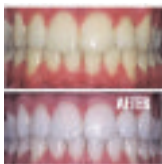
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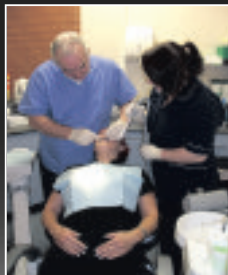
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NEWS

Singer Jaki next on Walk of Stars

SOUL singer Jaki Graham is to be awarded the next place on the Birmingham Broad Street Walk of Stars.

The singer, best known in the 1980s for her chart-topping hits including *Could It Be I'm Falling In Love* with David Grant, will be presented with a star in recognition of her global contribution to British soul music next month.

She will join the likes of rocker Tony Iommi, actress Julie Walters, comedian Lenny Henry and singer Beverley Knight to be awarded the honour on the city's Golden Mile.

The presentation event will take place at Nuvo Bar in the city on Wednesday, October 3.

Jaki, who was born and raised in Handsworth, had a string of hits during the '80s both in the UK and internationally.

Her career began in 1983, when she signed with EMI and Heaven Knows became the title track of her debut album.

Her first single *Could It Be I'm Falling In Love* reached number five in the British charts in March 1985.

She has also achieved a Guinness



Soul singer Jaki Graham is to get city's Broad Street honour

World Record as the first black British female solo artist to have six consecutive Top 10 or 20 hits. These included

Round And Round, *Set Me Free*, *Step Right Up* and *Breaking Away*.

Most recently Jaki has been back in the studio and has finished recording her first studio album in more than 10 years, *For Sentimental Reasons*, giving Jaki the chance to pay homage to some of the classics with the emphasis on more of a jazz sound. The album will be released on October 15.

Autobiography

Meanwhile, her forthcoming autobiography *Heaven Knows* is released later this year.

Broad Street events manager, Nichole Samuels said: "Jaki is a home grown talent to aspire to."

"With Black History Month coming soon, it only seemed appropriate to pay honour to one of the UK's most prominent black British females, paving the way for those who followed."

"It's great to know that we never fall short of exceptional British talent to add to our Walk of Stars and Jaki is a testament to that fact."

Birmingham's Lord Mayor Councillor John Lines will present the star to Jaki during next month's ceremony, when she will also perform a selection of her hits.

Jumping for joy at community day



Stacey Wiggin enjoys a fun day organised by Watmos Community Homes at Leamore

TENANTS from housing associations across Walsall took part in a successful event to forge community spirit on Saturday, September 15.

More than 200 residents of Watmos Community Homes took part in a family fun day at Providence Close, Leamore.

Now in its fourth year, the event included a bouncy castle, fun sumo wrestling, a giant gladiator game and a group Zumba session as well as a barbecue.

Event organisers Louise Walker said: "The whole day went fantastically well and there was a fabulous turn-out from tenants."

The community housing association is made up of eight tenants' management organisations from Walsall and is the only UK registered housing association where residents make up the majority of the governing board, giving overall management control to tenants.

Influx of agency workers doubles

THE number of agency staff placements at Walsall's under-fire children's services department more than doubled in eight months, new figures reveal.

There were 92 placements filled by agency staff in July, compared to 45 last November, with the council being charged at an hourly rate of between £9.39 and £67.70.

It comes after an Ofsted report branded the council's care of vulnerable children inadequate and criticised workforce planning, over a "frequent use" of agency workers and "relatively inexperienced" staff group.

Boss

But new children's services boss Rose Collinson has announced a move away from high numbers of temporary staff in the future.

The figures released by the council revealed that nine agency workers had been employed in the children's services department for more than 12 months up until July. There were eight more who had been in roles for between six and 12 months.

The council had to pay hourly charges of £67.70 for project managers, £31.30 for qualified social workers and £37.51 for senior practitioners.

100th anniversary season at Birmingham Rep



Josie Lawrence

THE 100th anniversary season of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to celebrate its centenary milestone in February 2013 has been announced.

It comes as plans have been outlined for the future of the theatre which will move back to its redeveloped auditorium alongside the new Library of Birmingham in September 2013.

Old Hill-born actress Josie Lawrence, Point of View star David Suchet, Harry Potter and Doctor Who actor Mark Williams, actress and director Dame Janet Suzman and jazz musician Soweto Kinch will become patrons.

Every child born at City and Heartlands hospitals in Birmingham during the 100th birthday week will be given free theatre experiences at The Rep.

Meanwhile 100 tickets for the birthday season are to be sold at 1913 prices. The

100th birthday season will take place at the original home of the company, The Old Rep Theatre in Station Street.

New artistic director Roxana Silbert said: "The Old Rep is where it all began and it is fitting that we celebrate this landmark anniversary there."

The birthday season opens with the world premiere of Philip Pullman's *I Was A Rat!* which runs from February 12 to March 2.

Birmingham writer Robin French moves Ibsen's classic *Hedda Gabler*, renamed *Heather Gardner*, to 1960s Edgbaston when it runs from March 14 to 28.

The weekend of March 23 and 24 will be devoted to a series of talks and discussions on Rep founder Sir Barry Jackson's influence.

Tickets for the birthday season have gone on sale.

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NEWS

Bumper turnout for diamond fun run

THE rain held off as a bumper crowd of more than 800 runners took part in this year's Rotary Club of Walsall fun run.

The number was just over double last year's entries' total and is expected to raise up to £8,000 for the organisation's chosen charities. Sunday's race, the Rotary Club's 30th, was given a diamond jubilee theme in honour of the Queen's 60 years on the throne, with all finishers being handed a specially engraved medal to mark the occasion.

Race director Nick Gray said: "We're very pleased with the number of people who ran and we were really lucky with the weather. There was a window between 10am, when people started to register, and 1pm when it was all over that was virtually dry. It wasn't until we were clearing up that it threw it down."

Runners took part in either a 10k run, 5k run and walk or a 3k walk from Walsall Arboretum, raising money for Bryntysilio outdoor education centre, a holiday home for children from across Walsall and Breast Cancer Care.

Around 80 volunteers marshalled the varied route which went up Sutton Road, Cuckoo's Nook, Aldridge Airport, Aldridge Road and Buchanan Road.

Volunteers

The shorter events stayed within the Arboretum.

Volunteers were from Queen Mary's Boys' School, Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School and Walsall Sea Scouts as well as Rotary members.

Solicitors Enoch Evans' 18-strong team won a prize for largest turnout.

Mr Gray said the fun run had raised more than £250,000 over the 30 years.



Stuart and Alison Jones, with niece Annie Kibble, 16, from Short Heath, at the Rotary Club run



The runners set off on the Rotary Club of Walsall's 30th annual fun run, held in the town's Arboretum, on Sunday

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VIDEO GAMES

It's a blast back on the Borderlands 2

Borderlands 2 (18)
THREE years ago developers Gearbox unleashed Borderlands, a hybrid first-person shooter and role-playing game set on a highly inhospitable planet.

It was a stylish romp, borrowing elements from Mad Max, Star Wars and spaghetti westerns. The sequel has just been released and it more than lives up to expectations, making the story deeper, enhancing character capabilities and providing a playing zone that is much bigger.

Publisher 2K's original game took around 20 hours to complete, Borderlands 2 will detain gamers for a lot longer.

Humour

Most importantly, it also maintains the distinctive Borderlands animated graphic novel look and keeps the strong humour element. The game is mainly down to battered 'bot Claptrap, a manically chirpy cousin to Wall-E and R2D2.

After a delirious Tarantino-style (re)introduction to the barren world of Pandora, the player can choose one of four characters and customise them. Each is a vaulthunter, on Pandora to search for a huge cache of the priceless alien



Oh bully bully, Salvador – one of the four 'vaulthunters' you can play as – runs into some trouble with the local wildlife (bullymonges) on planet Pandora in Borderlands 2

Sleeping Dogs (18)

THIS Chinese twist on Mafia role play from United Front and Square Enix has been topping the charts.

You play as Wei Shen, a kung fu kicking undercover cop infiltrating a Triad gang in Hong Kong. There is lots of violent action and brutal, expletive-strewn language.

The graphics look good, especially the neon-lit city streets. There are flaws but the fast pace of the game makes them easy to overlook.

It starts with a flourish as you have to dash through kitchens and clamber onto roof tops to dodge the cops.

It's on X360, P3 and PC platforms.

Worms Collection (12)

NOSTALGIA will be a major reason for purchasing this triple bill of titles originally available on Xbox LIVE Arcade. Includes the original 2D Worms, Worms 2 Armageddon and 3D cartoon craziness of Worms Ultimate Mayhem. The puzzle featuring wacky worms and explosive sheep was first a hit in the '90s. For X360 and PS3.

Skyrim: Hearthfire

A downloadable X360 extra for Bethesda's brilliant dragon fantasy allows you to make your own home and family in Skyrim, when you would rather just have another exciting quest.

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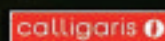
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WHATS NEW, What's Hot In interiors this autumn

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The new colours for autumn are reflecting a rustic charm with warm mustards, pale grey's, earthy reds, muddy lilacs, tangerines. If you crave a more glamorous look add that tactile; plush velvets in a walnut colour.

Getting a weather beaten look can be quite romantic but never forget your personal tastes. When Camberley curtains works with a person on a large project, such as a complete revamp, we always listen first then suggest second. The best way for you to find your taste in interiors is to collect pictures from home magazines that you have collected over time and put together a scrap book putting in pictures of kitchens you like, lounge ideas and colours you love. Your taste will now be really obvious to you and the couple of hours that you spent creating the book will do two things, focus your mind and style. Trust me this will save you hours of returning unwanted items, because you now know exactly the colour and look that you want.

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What's On! **Walsall****Carnival crew plan Halloween disco**

WILLENHALL Carnival Committee is holding a Halloween fancy dress disco on Saturday, October 27.

It will take place at Shepwell Green Social Club, in Bilston Lane, Willenhall, from 7pm until late.

Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1.50 for children with a prize up for grabs for the best fancy dress costume.

For tickets, call into Shepwell Green Social Club or call organisers on (01902) 411611 or 07909627736.

Reaching for the stars at the Civic

FAMILY-favourite 1990s pop group Steps are back together and back on the road, with a gig planned for Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday, December 5.

The Christmas with Steps concert will be a mixture of their hits and festive songs.

Tickets are priced £35 (or £45 for a seat in the first ten rows) and go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am at Midland Box Office online at www.wolverhampton.co.uk or on 0870 320 7000.

Script is sold out

IRISH rock band The Script, fronted by The Voice judge Danny O'Donoghue, have sold out their LG Arena gig scheduled for March 16 next year.

The band recently hit the no.1 spot in the singles chart with their track Hall of Fame, also featuring Danny's The Voice colleague Will.i.am.

Lloyd Webber's Superstar is ready to rock the arena



Ex-Radio 1 Breakfast DJ Chris Moyles plays Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar at the NIA next week

A STAR-STUDDED cast is heading to Birmingham NIA as the first UK arena tour of Jesus Christ Superstar rolls into the city.

Andrew Lloyd-Webber's rock musical, which began as a hit double album and toured US stadiums 40 years ago, has been revamped for the 21st Century.

The creative team's credits include ceremonies at the London 2012 Olympics, Diamond Jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace and Les Misérables concerts.

Winner

Winner of ITV show Superstar Ben Forster will play Jesus. Former Radio 1 Breakfast Show host Chris Moyles will make his stage debut at King Herod, and ex-Spice Girl Melanie C is Mary Magdalene. Aussie comic and musician Tim Minchin will play Judas. The ensemble will include Birmingham's Superstar contestant Tim Protty-Jones.

Jesus Christ Superstar is at the NIA on Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5.

Tickets cost £45 to £65 plus fees. Call 0844 338 8000.



Mickey and Minnie Mouse are ready to embark on a magical journey when Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure at Birmingham NIA from October 24

Win a family ticket to new Disney show

YOU'RE invited to join Mickey and Minnie Mouse on holiday when they embark on a magical adventure at Birmingham NIA.

Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure at the arena from October 24 to November 4 and we are giving you the chance to win a family ticket (two adults and two children) for opening night of this spectacular show.

Mickey and Minnie will visit the worlds of The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Peter Pan and say 'aloha' to Lilo & Stitch in Hawaii. Find out more at the www.thenia.com website.

For your chance to win, answer this question: What's the Hawaiian word for hello?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Disney On Ice Competition, Chronicle Series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, October 4. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Australian choir have church date

THE Australian Voices are coming to perform in a Walsall church as part of their UK tour.

The choral group are in concert at St Jude's Church in Eldon Road at 7pm on Sunday.

Tickets cost £15 adults, £12 concessions and £6 students. There will also be a free music workshop for ticketholders with choir members at 6pm.

The choir are also appearing at St Michael's Church in Boldmere today (Thursday) at 7pm.

British Eurovision winners in Pelsall

POP group Brotherhood of Man, who won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with Save Your Kisses For Me, will be taking to the stage in Pelsall as part of a Christmas concert. They also had chart-toppers with Angelo and Figaro.

Local singers Keir Edwards and Tom Edis will also feature in the concert at Pelsall Community Centre, Station Road, on December 7.

Tickets cost £15 and are available by calling 07783 419657.

Communion off

ROCKERS Black Country Communion, featuring Cannock-raised singer Glenn Hughes and Dudley-born drummer Jason Bonham, have cancelled their only UK concert. It was to be held at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on January 5. The band say it's due to "unforeseen circumstances".

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Brontë Country and Haworth Christmas market

Two-day break departing November 17

FROM £79^{95*}

- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- A visit to the Victorian Christmas market in Haworth

- A visit to Christkindlemarkt in Leeds

Arranged by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Chatsworth Christmas festival

Two-day break departing November 17

FROM £105*

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Meadowhall shopping centre

- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

York St Nicholas fayre

Two-day break departing December 1

FROM £89^{95*}

- Overnight half-board accommodation

- Visits to York St Nicholas Fayre and Haworth

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bath Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 1

FROM £95*

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the McArthurGlen shopping Outlet

- Visit to Bath Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lincoln Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 8

FROM £89^{95*}

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Meadowhall shopping centre

- Visit to Lincoln Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Grassington Dickensian festival and Manchester's Christmas markets

Two-day break departing December 8

FROM £99^{95*}

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Manchester's Christmas markets

- Visit to the Grassington Dickensian festival

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

*single room supplements apply

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 29.09.12

CHOICE



David Tennant

Comedy World Cup Channel 4, 8pm

In case you didn't know it, Barry Cryer is actually one of the UK's finest comedy writers, who penned material for showbiz legends including Dave Allen, Stanley Baxter, Tommy Cooper and Kenny Everett. He'll be one of the guest stars taking a place in this week's light-hearted quiz, fronted by David Tennant. Mick Miller, who first came to many peoples' attention 40 years ago as one of The Comedians, will also be taking part. Once more, team captains Johnny Vegas and Phill Jupitus will be doing their best to guide their side to victory.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **5.40** A Question of Sport: 2012 Olympics Special. **6.20** All New Total Wipeout. **7.20** Doctor Who. New York's statues come to life, and with Rory in grave danger, the Doctor and Amy face a race against time to locate him – with a little help from an old friend. **8.05** The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. High-tension quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles, in which two brothers are hoping to win enough to pay for one of them to have his dream stag party. **9.00** Casualty. A man meeting his girlfriend's daughter for the first time crosses paths with an old acquaintance, leading to disaster, while Fletch shows Lloyd a good time. **9.50** BBC News. Weather. **10.10** Match of the Day. Gabby Logan presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium and Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford. National Lottery Update. **11.40** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **12.50** Film: Point Blank. (1967) Crime thriller, starring Lee Marvin. **2.20** Weather. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **11.00** Golf: The Ryder Cup. (R) **1.00** Film: The Swarm. (1978) **3.30** Film: Triple Cross. (1965) **5.30** Wartime Farm. (R) **6.30** Flog It! Susan Orringe and Mark Stacey uncover more items suitable for auction in Weymouth, Dorset. (R) **7.30** Dad's Army. A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring dream he is Napoleon, in an episode first broadcast in October 1972. (R) **8.00** Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs. Historian Pamela Cox explores how Britain's domestic servants lived and worked in the 19th and 20th centuries, and investigates their role in society. (R) **9.00** QI XL. Rob Brydon, Phill Jupitus, Cal Wilson and Alan Davies try to come up with interesting answers to Stephen Fry's questions about journeys, in an extended version of the quiz. **9.45** The Trick of It. Nicola boards a train to Bradford for a party event, accompanied by a TV news crew, giving Malcolm an opportunity to continue his plan to remove her as leader of the opposition. **10.15** The Clintons. How the Monica Lewinsky scandal shook America's confidence in Bill Clinton. Last in the series. **11.15** TOTP2: Bee Gees Special. The Bee Gees talk about and perform some of their favourite tracks. (R) **12.00** Golf: The Ryder Cup. **2.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The X Factor. (R) **12.50** ITV News. Weather. **12.55** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.20** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.05** Film: Any Which Way You Can. (1980) **4.10** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.00** ITV News. Weather. **6.15** New You've Been Framed! **6.45** Fool Britannia. Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. **7.15** Red or Black? Champion martial artists go head to head, men take on women in a stunt-diving challenge and the Overtones perform a medley. Game show, hosted by Ant and Dec. Continues after The X Factor. **8.00** The X Factor. Cheryl Cole, Ne-Yo, Tinie Tempah and Sharon Osbourne assist Gary, Nicole, Tulisa and Louis respectively in locations around the world as 24 acts vie for 12 places in the live shows. Continues tomorrow. **9.50** Red or Black? Including a shadow-boxing duel between James DeGale and Carl Froch. Last in the series. **10.35** The Jonathan Ross Show. With Jack Dee, Dynamo, Emma Watson and No Doubt. **11.35** ITV News. Weather. **11.50** Take Me Out. A scuba-diving instructor, a media salesman, a hair consultant and a fish merchant take part. (R) **1.00** The Store. ITV News. Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** British Formula Ford. **7.00** F1M Superbike World Championship 2012. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.50** T4: Pink: Real Stories. **9.50** T4: iTunes Festival 2012: T4 Highlights. **10.25** T4: New Girl. **10.55** T4: Revenge. **11.50** T4: Suburgatory. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.15** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **6.25** Baggage. Two more singletons pick a partner to take on a romantic holiday, but must choose from contestants whose foibles include constant crying and an obsession with football. (R) **7.25** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4Thought.tv. A Sufi Muslim compares English and Egyptian culture. **8.00** Comedy World Cup. Johnny Vegas, Josh Widdicombe and Mick Miller take on Phill Jupitus, Roisin Conaty and Barry Cryer as the comedy quiz tournament continues. David Tennant asks the questions. **9.00** The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers. **11.05** Film: Silver. (1993) Erotic thriller, starring Sharon Stone and William Baldwin. **1.10** Film: Omkara. (2006) Musical drama, starring Ajay Devgan. **3.45** Amelia and Michael. (R) **3.55** Hollywoods.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** How Do They Do It? (R) **11.55** Film: Battle of the Buge. (1965) **2.50** Film: Maverick. (1994) Comedy Western, starring Mel Gibson. **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15** Film: North Sea Hijack. (1979) **7.15** Film: The Wild Geese. (1978) British mercenaries hired to free a political prisoner from an African state are betrayed by their employers. Action adventure, starring Richard Burton and Richard Harris; 5 News Update. **9.50** CSI: Miami. The investigators head to a children's beauty pageant where one of the contestants' mothers has been found dead – but stumble across another horrific crime. **10.45** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team investigates the death of a schoolgirl whose body was found wrapped in a shower curtain. A classmate with a grudge claims he is guilty – but his sister also confesses. (R) **11.40** Forensic Files. Police use the latest scientific and forensic techniques to identify the killer of a convenience-store clerk whose half-naked body was found in woods almost 20 years previously. (R) **12.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake Show. **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **BBC Four** **7.00** Human Planet **8.00** Horizon: Seeing Stars **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** The Story of Light Entertainment **ITV2** **3.05** The X Factor **4.35** The Xtra Factor **5.40** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.55** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **9.50** The Xtra Factor **10.50** Celebrity Juice **11.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **ITV3** **3.30** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.50** Murder, She Wrote **6.50** Foyle's War **9.00** Vera Stanhope investigates an 11-year-old murder case. **11.00** Crime Connections **ITV4** **3.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights **4.05** Police, Camera, Action! **4.35** The Professionals **5.40** Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15** Film: GoodFellas (1990) **E4** **3.15** Revenge **4.15** Film: Grease (1978) Romantic musical, with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005) **11.10** The Inbetweeners **Film4** **3.30** Imagine That (2009) **5.35** The Golden Child (1986) **7.20** Hot Shots! (1991) Action movie spoof, starring Charlie Sheen. **9.00** (500) Days of Summer (2009) **10.50** The Hills Have Eyes (2006) Horror remake, starring Aaron Stanford.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 30.09.12

CHOICE



Fake or Fortune? BBC1, 7pm

Week after week this series has proved to be fascinating viewing, as presenter Fiona Bruce – with the assistance of expert Philip Mould – has laid bare some of the tricks of the forgers' trade by assessing supposedly valuable works of art from around the world. But this week the tables are turned, as art detective Philip puts one of his own finds under the microscope. He believes a painting he bought could be the work of 17th-century artist Anthony van Dyck. But to prove it, the piece will have to undergo a thorough examination.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.20** Cash in the Attic. (R) **2.05** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Indian Doctor. (R) **5.35** Planet Earth Live: An Elephant's Tale. **6.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.00** Fake or Fortune? Philip Mould tries to prove one of his own purchases is by Anthony van Dyck. It could be worth a small fortune, but the painting will have to undergo a thorough restoration first. **8.00** Countryfile. Steps to corvise eds and the rare lesser horseshoe bat in the Usk Valley and how a rise in the demand for coal is affecting parts of the countryside and the people who live there. **9.00** Andrew Marr's History of the World. The journalist tells the story of the earliest empires, which laid the foundations for the modern world, including the invention of the first alphabet and the birth of democracy. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Aston Villa v West Bromwich Albion. **11.05** Golf: The Ryder Cup. Highlights of the third and final day from Medinah Country Club in Illinois. **1.05** Weather. **1.10** Sign Zone: Calmings – A Year in the Wild. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** The Paradise. (R) **4.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.30** MotoGP. **2.00** Golf: The Ryder Cup. (R) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs. Tanya Arnold presents highlights of the qualifying semi-finals. **6.00** Great Barrier Reef. Monty Halls explores the extraordinary ecosystem. (R) **7.00** Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May try to build mobility scooters capable of tackling the British countryside's terrain. With actor Michael Fassbender. (R) **8.00** Vikings. Neil Oliver tells the story of how the age of the Vikings came to an end, exploring the lives of the first Danish kings and the spread of Christianity. Last in the series. (R) **9.00** Dragons' Den. A former chat-show host seeks funding to make a TV quiz programme – and tries to convince the Dragons her game could be a hit by getting them to play it. **10.00** Mock the Week. With Joe Wilkinson, Josh Widdicombe and Milton Jones. (R) **10.30** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With guest host Kathy Burke. (R) **11.00** Film: You Instead. (2011) Premiere. Two bickering rock stars from rival bands are forced to spend a music festival handcuffed to one another. Romantic comedy, starring Luke Treadaway and Natalia Tena. **12.00** Film: My Baby's Daddy. (2004) **1.40** BBC News. **3.55** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.35** ITV News: Weather. **12.50** The X Factor. (R) **2.40** William & Kate: The South Seas Tour. (R) **3.40** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **4.40** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.40** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. (R) **6.10** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.25** ITV News: Weather. **6.40** The Chase Celebrity Special. Russell Watson, Rita Simons, Bill Oddie and Denise Welch try to win thousands of pounds for charity by outwitting one of the show's resident trivia experts. **7.40** The X Factor. The judges have to tell the remaining acts in their categories who has made it into the final 12, and who is heading home disappointed. **9.00** Downton Abbey. Edith's big day arrives. Mrs Hughes anxiously awaits her results, while Mary takes matters into her own hands to secure the estate's future – but the personal cost could be high. **10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Hillsborough. Jimmy McGovern's 1996 drama exploring how 96 spectators lost their lives at a 1989 FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield. Starring Christopher Eccleston. (R) **12.20** Premiership Rugby Union. **1.15** The Store: ITV News Headlines. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.50** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** FIA GT1 Championship. **7.10** Ironman Triathlon. **7.35** Inside Endurance: The Brownies. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** Food Unwrapped. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: I Hate About You. (1999) Comedy, starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles. **4.50** 4thought.tv. **4.55** Deal or No Deal. **5.55** Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Ray Romano. **7.40** Channel 4 News. **8.00** Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. The Grand Designs presenter continues his project by searching for items to transform the shell of his wooden cabin into a habitable home, including a floor, a window and a stove. **9.00** Big Fat Quiz of the Os. Alan Carr, David Mitchell, Richard Ayoade, Sarah Millican, Kevin Bridges and Noel Fielding answer questions about the 2000s. Jimmy Carr hosts. Last in the series. **10.35** Film: The Brave One. (2007) A radio talk-show host descends into a spiral of violence after taking the law into her own hands to avenge her fiancée's murder. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster and Terrence Howard. **12.55** American Football Live. Philadelphia Eagles v New York Giants (Kick-off 1.20am). **4.45** Grudge Match. Remote-control car fanatics battle it out. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. **5.50** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flovortots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **12.25** Film: City Under the Sea. (1965) **2.05** Film: Vertical Limit. (2000) **4.25** Film: The Towering Inferno. (1974) **7.35** 5 News Weekend. **7.40** Film: Spider-Man 2. (2004) Personal troubles tempt Peter Parker into giving up fighting crime, but first he has to face a deadly new foe. Comic-book adventure, starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. **10.00** Film: Gamer. (2009) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, with Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall. **11.55** Soho Blues. Police officers in London's West End raid a suspected fraudster's flat. (R) **12.50** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Haze's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Be Your Own Boss **8.00** Film: National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Cuckoo! **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **7.30** The Story of Light Entertainment **9.00** Fleetwood Mac – Don't Stop **10.00** Film: The Maid (2009) **11.30** Room at the Top **ITV2**
3.40 The X Factor **5.30** The Xtra Factor **6.35** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **9.00** The X Factor **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Girlfri3nds **11.45** Film: Eyes Wide Shut (1999)
ITV3
2.50 Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **5.00** Film: The Magnificent Seven (1967) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Film: Fierce Creatures (1997) **10.55** Cracker
ITV4
1.35 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **4.10** Film: Spartacus (1960) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Keeper (2009) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal. **11.00** Film: The Howling (1981)
E4
3.10 Charlie's Angels **4.05** New Girl **4.35** Suburgatory **5.05** Revenge **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.02** Broke Girls **11.30** New Girl
Film4
2.50 The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller remake, with James Stewart and Doris Day. **5.10** Meet Dave (2008) **6.55** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **9.00** Juno (2007) Comedy, starring Ellen Page. **10.50** 12 Rounds (2008)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Speed, Channel 5, 9pm

An LAPD cop discovers a psychopathic criminal has planted a bomb on a crowded bus, primed to go off if the vehicle drops below 50mph. He boards the vehicle and helps the hapless passenger who has been forced to take the wheel to keep a constant speed to avoid a disaster. Action thriller, starring Keanu Reeves. (1994)

TUESDAY

Outrageous Fortune, BBC1, 12.05am

A porn star and a drama student discover they have one thing in common – they are being two-timed by the same man. When their lover mysteriously disappears, they team up to find him, only to learn he is an agent of a foreign power and has implicated them in his espionage schemes. Comedy, starring Bette Midler, Shelley Long, Peter Coyote and Robert Prosky. (1987)

WEDNESDAY

Identity, Channel 5, 11pm

Ten strangers take shelter from a storm in a remote hotel, but start to suspect their being together at the same place and time is more than just a coincidence. Before long a mysterious figure begins to murder them off one by one – leaving the guests to work out which of them is the killer, or if someone else is in the hotel. Murder mystery, starring John Cusack. (2003)



Speed, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

McBride: Tune in for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An obnoxious radio DJ is killed and his co-presenter is accused of the crime. McBride takes on the case, but becomes convinced of the defendant's innocence – especially as the murder weapon is nowhere to be found. Mystery, starring John Larroquette. (2005)

FRIDAY

Into the Blue, Channel 5, 10pm

Divers looking for sunken treasure in the Bahamas discover the submerged wreckage of a plane with a stash of cocaine hidden inside it. Eager to make the most of the opportunity, they devise a plan to sell the drugs – but their scheme attracts the attention of a ruthless narcotics dealer and an unscrupulous rival treasure hunter. Thriller, starring Paul Walker. (2005)

American Gangster, ITV1, 10.35pm

The story of 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas, whose methods of smuggling heroin into the US made him one of the leading figures in the New York underworld. A detective is assigned to bring Lucas's empire down, but his investigation is undermined by police corruption. Fact-based crime drama, starring Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Josh Brolin. (2007)

Pick of the Week

An intelligent new entry in the espionage genre

Melissa George has certainly come a long way from the picturesque sand dunes of Summer Bay and Alf Stewart's kindly lectures.

The Amityville Horror, Derailed and a decent stint in the always-loved Friends provided starring roles for her; but when can the actress finally breathe a sigh of relief and be in no doubt that she's really hit the big time? When her talents secure her the lead role in a gritty BBC espionage drama like Hunted (Thursday BBC1, 9pm), that's when – and so we're about to see a whole lot more of this brilliantly talented actress.

Here, she crops up as Sam Hunter, an operative for the elite private intelligence and security firm Byzantium. She's had something of a hard life; while assigned to a mission in Tangier, someone tried to kill her, and not knowing where to turn, she retreated to a remote location to retreat.

A year down the line, and she's fighting fit and ready to return to

work, but she's not greeted with cards and flowers; suspicion and mistrust more like – where has she been all this time? That's the question on the lips of her former secret lover Aidan Marsh.

Her bosses are equally as wary of her, but they have more important matters to attend to; they need Sam to infiltrate a family headed by millionaire Jack Turner, a man with a criminal past and who has a vested interest in Byzantium's secret client.

The premise alone gives a firm nod in the direction of fellow BBC spy drama, Spooks, so for those of you who have been needing a fix since that came off air some time ago, fill your boots.

George recently spoke to Cinemax about her latest portrayal, admitting: "You don't want to cross Sam. She is still the firm's best operative, but since the attempt on her life, any trust she had for the firm and her co-workers is gone. That is why she is so determined to go back to work and face her

team – she really believes that one of them is behind it. She is a very complicated person and not easy to get to know."

But it would seem that in her new mission, as she integrates with the family she's been assigned to, it will be hard not to become emotionally embroiled in their story.

"When the trauma of her past resurfaces, it sends her down a certain path. In many ways, she identifies with Eddie, the child she is tutoring in her mission. Because of their similar experiences, he has a huge effect on her that she wasn't anticipating. She struggles with caring too much, which can be a liability in her business."

George is in great company in this, another of the Beeb's surge of fantastic dramas to take us through dark and dreary nights of the looming winter.

She stars alongside Adam Rayner (Mistresses), Stephen Dillane (Game of Thrones) and Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbale (Lost).



Melissa George stars in the new espionage thriller series.

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Hotel GB, Channel 4, 9pm

Where on earth would you find the ever-helpful Dr Christian Jessen and foul-mouthed foodie Gordon Ramsay underneath the same roof at the same time? In Hotel GB of course, as Channel 4 brings together some of its well-loved personalities, throws them into a hotel to run it, and sees how they fare. The broadcaster always does these novel-sounding ideas so well, but this time, it's for a good cause. For one week, many familiar faces will take over a hotel and staff it with unemployed people who are desperate for a break; the challenge being that the hotel must make as much money for unemployment charities as possible. Keep an eye out for Gok Wan, Phil Spencer and Katie Piper.

Monroe

ITV1, 9pm

James Nesbitt's hit drama about a charismatic brain surgeon obviously impressed millions when it debuted last year, so before you could say 'medulla oblongata', TV bosses had given the green light to a more ambitious second, run. Series two opens 18 months after series one, and there are quite a few changes at St Matthew's hospital. While Monroe (Nesbitt) has moved into his new bachelor pad, Shepherd (Tom Riley) and Bremner (Sarah Parish) are proud parents to baby Louis. Alistair Gillespie (Neil Pearson), the hospital's new Head of Clinical Services, soon makes his presence felt with a few controversial decisions, and it looks like co-worker Lizzie

Clapham (Tracy-Ann Oberman) will also set the cat among the pigeons.

TUESDAY

UEFA Champions League Live, ITV1, 7.30pm

Manchester United continue their quest to reach the knockout stages of the Champions League this evening as they travel to Romania to face CFR Cluj at the Dr Constantin Radulescu Stadium for their second Group H encounter. The hosts are the domestic champions and produced one of the shock results of matchday one with a 2-0 victory away to Portuguese side SC Braga, leaving United with a potentially tricky assignment as they look to build on their 1-0 win against Galatasaray at Old Trafford on the same evening. Michael Carrick was on target for the Red Devils early in that match, which was also notable for a Nani penalty miss and the return to first-team action of midfielder Darren Fletcher.

WEDNESDAY

Dallas

Channel 5, 9pm

There's more sibling rivalry between the Ewing pensioners as a furious Bobby discovers he has been conned and JR holds the deeds to Southfork. However, Ann comes up with a way to stop his plan, though it could prove costly. Meanwhile, Tommy and Rebecca attempt to rescue their scheme; Elena and John Ross attempt to

reach an understanding, and Christopher considers playing dirty to overcome his enemies. Aside from series regulars Larry Hagman and Patrick Duffy, the cast includes Josh Henderson, Jesse Metcalfe, Jordana Brewster and 24/ Transformers veteran Glenn Morshower.

THURSDAY Making Faces, Channel 5, 9pm

The men and women of the Maxillofacial Prosthetic Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham are nothing short of miracle-workers; ask any of their patients – they will tell you the same. They are simply a godsend to people who require a facial prosthetic due to illness, accident or birth defect, and this documentary series has been rather sobering for we mere viewers. Among this week's crop of inspirational people, as cameras continue to follow their stories and explain why they're visiting the surgeons in the first place, we meet Peter, who's dealing with the loss of his nose to cancer.

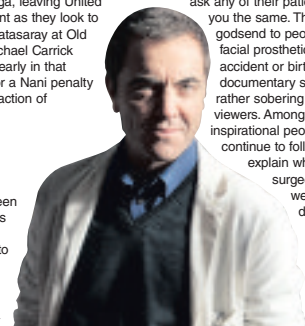
FRIDAY Strictly Come Dancing, BBC1, 9pm

On Saturday,

September 15, viewers were treated to a special premiere edition of this year's Strictly Come Dancing. It introduced us to the competitors and their professional dance partners. Usually such things are predictable, but the sight of tiny Kristina getting Colin Salmon was a bit of a shock – their dances 'in hold' will probably see her staring at his belly button instead of over his shoulder. The competition proper begins this evening, with half of the group of celebrities celebrities taking to the dance floor for the first time; the remainder make their debuts on Saturday. Everyone will be hoping to impress the judges as well as the viewers; the results of both sets of votes will be announced next week, when the first celeb will be given the boot.

Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs, BBC2, 9pm

Learning about those who worked 'downstairs' a century ago always made for an interesting topic in history lessons; if you were lucky, you got to play dress-up and really get into character. Years down the line, seeing how 19th and 20th century domestic servants lived still makes for a fascinating subject (note the popularity of Downton Abbey) – something with which Pamela Cox obviously concurs. This week, she discovers what happened when servants directly challenged their masters and mistresses. The programme tells of wayward laundry maids, butlers selling their stories to the press and Suffragette maids. The whole notion of service hit trouble though when young workers were lured into factories and shops...



Monroe, Monday, ITV1, 9pm

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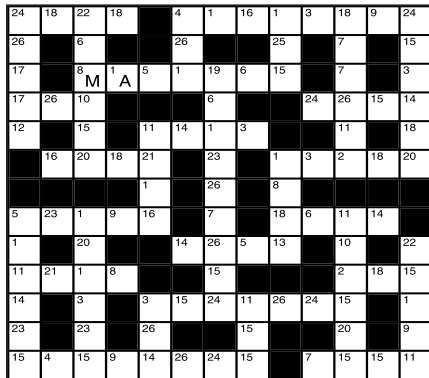
What's On!

Brain Gym

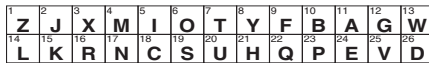
No.188

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

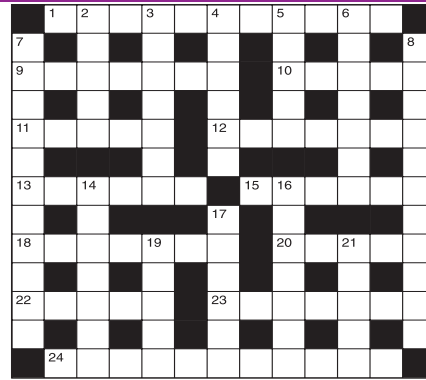
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Evidently doesn't suffer in silence! (5,2,4)
9. Shrub here in the cellar but usually outdoors (7)
10. One way to score (5)
11. One who pays his respects in a lady's boudoir? (5)
12. Composed and ready for inspection (5,2)
13. A stone in the way perhaps (6)
15. End of the act (6)
18. It may accompany a throbbing drum (7)
20. Coach - or coaches (5)
22. Talk or eat perhaps (5)
23. They may be tied up with postal deliveries (7)
24. It throws light on what has been written (7,4)

Down

2. Space is needed for this room (5)
3. After a number on the side (7)
4. Selected to play, but not on the wing? (6)
5. Animal comes from the swamp and accepts food (5)
6. Concentrated in a nervous way (7)
7. He probably doesn't engage in serious pursuits (3,8)
8. Rows in forms that will please the eye (11)
14. Line of defence that makes lawyers angry? (7)
16. Put into bonds on account of great interest? (7)
17. Continue being eager to hold work up (4,2)
19. A solemn profession (5)
21. A light abreast of the ship (5)



Quick Clues:

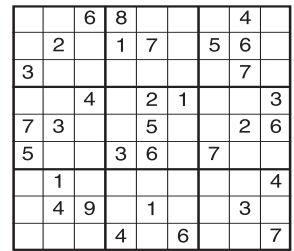
Across

1. Calamity (11)
9. Bankruptcy (7)
10. Game of chance (5)
11. To correct (5)
12. Trenches (7)
13. Ridiculous (6)
15. Talented (6)
18. Vacation (7)
20. Of the sun (5)
22. Confine (5)
23. Passage (7)
24. News (11)

Down

2. Nimble (5)
3. Apart (7)
4. Tramples (6)
5. Young bird (5)
6. Axe (7)
7. A little time later (5,1,5)
8. Thoughtful (11)
14. Wise man (7)
16. Moment (7)
17. Method (6)
19. The same (5)
21. Lariat (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	5	2	4	9	7	3
5	2	4	9	3	7	6	1
3	9	7	1	6	8	2	4
6	3	5	7	9	6	4	2
6	7	2	4	8	1	3	5
9	4	1	2	5	3	7	8
2	5	6	6	4	9	1	3
4	1	9	3	7	5	8	6
7	6	3	8	1	2	5	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Hopeless; 5 Uses; 9 Idea; 10 Mahogany; 11 Snips; 12 Eclipse; 13 Sleeping pills; 18 Astonish; 19 Guys; 20 Siamese; 21 Lary; 22 Ring; 23 Advances. Down: 2 Ordinal; 3 Example; 4 Shake one's head; 6 Scalpel; 7 Shyness; 8 Roll up; 13 Spars; 14 Entrain; 15 Penned; 16 Ingrain; 17 Layette. QUICK - Across: 1 Complete; 5 Acts; 9 Maze; 10 Alienate; 11 Civil; 12 Abusive; 13 Intentionally; 18 Together; 19 Jowl; 20 Outcome; 21 Queer; 22 Tune; 23 Astonish. Down: 2 Oration; 3 Precise; 4 Talkativeness; 6 Cranial; 7 Scenery; 8 Return; 13 Introit; 14 Tighten; 15 Notion; 16 Adjoin; 17 Lawless.

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STRATTON STREET



PARK VILLAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

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DORA STREET



PLECK, WALSALL

LOCATED NEAR M6 J9 and Pleck Park. The property comprises of LOUNGE, DINING ROOM, FITTED KITCHEN, ground floor Bathroom, three bedrooms, rear garden, CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING.

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DARLASTON

A modern semi detached property comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with breakfast area, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, garage, double glazing and central heating. Viewing recommended.

£550

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ROWLEY REGIS

A Two bedroom property with the benefit of double glazing and central heating. The property comprises of hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, fore garden, allocated parking space. No rear garden.

£475PCM

MELLISH ROAD



WALSALL

A well presented apartment, comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen to high standard, two bedrooms and fitted bathroom with shower, central heating and allocated parking. Viewing recommended.

£495PCM

FREER COURT



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A luxurious warehouse conversion spacious one bedroom apartment in the heart of Walsall town centre. Benefitting from a fully fitted kitchen, designer tiled bathroom, hardwood flooring throughout and intercom system.

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WESTMINSTER ROAD



RUSHALL

A delightful terraced property. The property has been recently refurbished to a high standard, and comprises of lounge, dining room, newly fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom.

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GLEBE STREET



WALSALL

A modern semi detached property located on the edge of Walsall Town Centre. The property comprises of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. central heating and rear garden.

£495PCM

PRINCE STREET



PLECK, WALSALL

A three bedroom end-terraced property located near M9 J9. The property comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, rear garden. It benefits from central heating, DSS Welcome.

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FREER COURT



WALSALL

A luxurious warehouse conversion one bedroom apartment in the heart of Walsall town centre. This contemporary style apartment overlooks a private landscaped courtyard with feature lighting.

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BATMANSHILL ROAD



TIPTON

A modern town house with lounge, fully fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, two allocated parking spaces, central heating, double glazing. Viewing Recommended

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WALSALL ROAD



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A modern unfurnished mid terraced house comprising of a fitted kitchen with a gas hob and oven, one reception room, three bedrooms and bathroom, central heating, double glazed windows and rear garden

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HAWTHORNE ROAD



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The house at 9 Mount Road, Tettenhall Wood



Approach to the home's enlarged kitchen area

NUMBER 9 Mount Road is an attractive, end of terrace house which has been substantially extended to the rear to greatly enhance the scope of the accommodation provided.

There are two large reception rooms together with a fine breakfast kitchen with three double bedrooms and two bath/shower rooms to the first floor. The property in Tettenhall Wood has recently been the subject of a comprehensive scheme of refurbishment.

Decorative The property has been re-wired, a new central heating system installed, double glazed windows have been fitted, the house has been redecorated, oak flooring has been fitted to some of the ground floor, a new staircase has been fabricated and new carpets have been laid. A panelled front door with double glazed side panel opens into the hall with oak flooring and a door to the re-appointed cloakroom with a white suite of a WC, pedestal wash basin with tiled splashback, oak flooring and mosaic tiled window shelf.

There is a superb lounge to the front of the house with a double glazed front window and an attractive double glazed and leaded corner window, a white painted, cast iron fireplace with marble hearth, two decorative display recesses, coved ceiling and two open, corbelled arches into a dining room with oak flooring and a staircase. The breakfast kitchen is a

large, L-shape with ample space for a breakfast table and a comprehensive range of recently re-appointed gloss white fronted units.

A turned staircase with wrought iron balustrading rises from the dining room to the galleried landing with a useful built-in storage cupboard.

The principal bedroom suite has a large double bedroom with two double glazed windows to the rear, a range of built-in wardrobes with cupboards above, wiring for wall lights and an ensuite shower room which has been re-appointed with a modern white suite with fully tiled walls and floor and a double glazed window to the side.

Gravelled

There are a further two double bedrooms which each benefit from the use of a tandem bathroom with a recently re-appointed, contemporary white suite of a panelled bath with electric shower over, vanity wash basin with cupboards beneath, a WC and fully tiled walls and floor, extraction fan and a double glazed window.

The property, which has an asking price of around £235,000, benefits from a charming rear garden with a timber-decked patio, gravelled beds and a shaped lawn beyond. There is vehicular side access to a single garage and parking space.

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PROPERTY AUCTION 2nd OCTOBER 2012



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Guide: £90,000/£110,000

**VIEWING: ALL THOSE VIEWING MUST BRING A TORCH
NO TORCH = NO VIEWING**

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 27th & 28th SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.



70/70A WROTTESLEY ROAD, TETTENHALL

In a prime residential area, a Detached Property comprising Two Self-Contained Flats. Each offers Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Outside - Two Garages and delightful extensive Gardens

Guide: £250,000/£270,000

**VIEWING: THURSDAY 27th SEPTEMBER
@ 1.45 p.m. & SATURDAY 29th
SEPTEMBER @ 10.00 am**



100 LESLIE ROAD, PARK VILLAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON
Large double fronted Victorian Detached
Two Reception, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Double Bedrooms & Bathroom
Very large Workshop/Store at rear - approx 1,100 sq ft.
Double doors for access at side

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
28th & 29th SEPTEMBER @ 11.45 am**



95 NINE ELMS LANE, PARK VILLAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

On a large corner plot this well presented Semi overlooks parkland
Two Reception and Study area, Kitchen, fitted Cloakroom,
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
Gas CH, upvc Windows, Two Drives & Garage, pleasant Garden

Guide: £88,000/£93,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
28th & 29th SEPTEMBER @ 12.30 pm**



25 SOMERFORD PLACE, WILLENHALL

An impressive Detached Late Victorian House used as Two Flats
Ground Floor: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, WC, Cellar
First Floor: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, smart Shower Room, Separate WC
Driveway at side, Garage, Outbuilding and Garden

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

**VIEWING:
THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
27th & 28th SEPTEMBER @ 12.00 noon**



82 CROSS ROAD, ALBRIGHTON

A short distance from the centre of this attractive and popular village which offers most amenities.
A Three Bedroomed Semi overlooking open fields and with pleasant Rear Garden
Improvement/modernisation needed

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

**VIEWING: THURSDAY 27th SEPTEMBER @ 3.00 p.m.
& SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER @ 9.00 am**



57 CENTRAL DRIVE, COSELEY

A large immaculately presented First Floor Flat overlooking an open green and with the benefit of Garden to the rear
Spacious Lounge, well appointed Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, smart Bathroom
Gas Central Heating, Store and Outside Store

Guide: £59,000/£64,000

**VIEWING:
FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER @ 3.30 p.m. &
SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER @ 11.15 a.m.**



131 WINDSOR AVENUE, PENN

Now a little tired but an excellent opportunity to refurbish a
Three Bed Semi in a popular residential area
Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, old Garage
Front and Rear Gardens currently managed by nature!

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th
& 29th SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 a.m.**



24 ST JUDES ROAD WEST, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Located close to the Girls' High School and within a mile of the City Centre
A character Semi-Detached in need of modernisation
Two Reception, Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
Long Rear Garden

Guide: £73,000/£78,000

**VIEWING: THURSDAY 27th SEPTEMBER @ 1.00 p.m.
& FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER @ 1.00 p.m.**



243 MERRIDALE STREET WEST PENN FIELDS

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Modernised with Upvc windows, Central Heating,
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Guide: £8,000/£12,000



646 PARKFIELD ROAD, PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Semi with rear vehicular access and Garage
Upvc Windows, Gas CH
Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, First Floor WC
Two Outside Stores, attractive Garden

Guide: £58,000/£63,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
28th & 29th SEPTEMBER @ 1.30 pm**

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Time to get home in shape for winter

NOW is a good time for homeowners to 'health check' their homes before the winter weather, according to NHBC (National House-Building Council).

It is the UK's leading warranty provider and standards setting body for new build homes.

People living in houses built in the last 10 years will typically have to deal with less maintenance, as the build quality and energy efficiency of new homes today is superior to that of older properties.

NHBC has worked to raise the construction standards of new homes and provide protection for new homebuyers, with its flagship Buildmark warranty covering more than 80 per cent of new homes built in the UK, giving homeowners assurance and redress if anything goes wrong.

Whether your home is new or old, NHBC advises all homeowners to carry out a yearly review of the property, to keep everything in order and protect your investment.

Items worth checking are:

Heating system: This is also a good time to bleed radiators, to get rid of air pockets, and to have your annual boiler service, to ensure the system is working to its best performance and safety. Contact a Gas Safe registered installer to carry out an annual check now.

Smoke detectors: If run on batteries, these should be checked and replaced if necessary. All detectors should be replaced after 10 years.

Home security: Check the locks on all doors and windows, to ensure if they are in full working order.

Plumbing: Dripping pipes and taps waste vast amounts of water and can also create significant internal damage. It may be a simple repair such as replacing a washer for a new one, so



Clearing gutters will prevent blockages that can lead to water damage

check your system thoroughly and if necessary, contact a qualified plumber to make repairs.

External

Roofing: Look at your roof from the outside, to see if any tiles are cracked or have slipped; if so these will need replacing by a professional roofer.

Solar Panels: Should be self cleaning, however to maintain efficiency, any debris that has accumulated should be removed if this can be done safely. (Roof mounted equipment is fragile and should be treated in accordance with manufacturers guidelines)

Guttering: Check for damage and clear away blockages. Blockages can lead to water damage, so make sure guttering is cleared at least once a year. For safety reasons, this should be carried out by a professional.

Woodwork: This needs preserving.

Timber windows and doors need repainting every three to five years.

Garden fencing: This provides your home with security and privacy, so it is important to check garden fencing for any damage and maintain its good condition.

A quick home health check will identify areas that need attention and catch problems at an early stage.

Carrying out regular maintenance ensures a home is kept in good condition, making it more pleasant to live in, more energy efficient and cheaper to run, and increasing its residual value.

Further advice on property maintenance and other issues can be found in NHBC's publication, A Guide to your new home – a practical guide to looking after your new home, free at www.nhbc.co.uk/homeowners

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WS3 1LZ

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Street
Walsall
WS1 1AB

Darlaston
45 King Street
Darlaston
WS10 8DE

Willenhall
22 New Road
Willenhall
WV13 2BG



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GOUGH STREET, WILLENHALL

- NEW BUILD HOMES
- LARGE FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS
- GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- FAMILY BATHROOM WITH SEPERATE SHOWER
- UTILITY ROOM AND DOWNSTAIRS WC

OFFERS £185,000



AVON DRIVE, WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroomed Detached
- Popular Kingfisher Estate
- Conservatory
- En-Suite and Family Bathroom
- Ground Floor Cloakroom/WC
- Integral Garage

OFFERS £145,000



GREAVES CRESCENT, WILLENHALL

- Extended 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge and Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Crete print driveway
- Integral Garage

REDUCED TO OFFERS £134,995



LONGWOOD RISE, SHORT HEATH

- 2 Bed Semi-Detached House
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Garage/Store
- Low Maintenance Paved Gardens

OFFERS £110,000



ST ANNE'S ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Modern 2 bed semi detached
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall
- Fitted Kitchen with hob and oven
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Block paved frontage for off road parking

OFFERS £99,950



ALMOND AVENUE, BENTLEY

- Three Bedroomed Semi-Detached
- Partial Central Heating
- Partial Double Glazing
- Large Side Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off road parking

REDUCED TO OFFERS £84,950



FAIRLAWN WAY, WILLENHALL

- First Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Bathroom

\$325pcm



RUSSELL STREET, WILLENHALL

- First Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen With Some Appliances
- Bathroom
- GCH & UPVC DG
- Parking

\$460pcm



GLAISDALE GROVE, WILLENHALL

- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- GCH & UPVC DG
- Integral Garage

\$580pcm



HASKELL STREET, WALSALL

- Mid Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Part UPVC DG
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

\$450pcm



MAIN STREET, STONNALL

- First Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

\$435pcm



HAVERGAL PLACE, SHARSHILL, WOLVERHAMPTON

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Garage & Allocated Parking Space

\$575pcm



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auCTION
HOUSE
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Auction

Wednesday 10th October
at 6.30pm precisely

Venue

Banks's Stadium, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall

For Sale by public auction on
Wednesday 10th October @ 6.30pm.

To be held at Banks's Stadium Bescot Crescent, Walsall,
WS1 4SA (Subject to prior sale and conditions)

Lot 2 90 Woodhouses Road,
Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 9EJ

Viewing: Saturday 29th September at 12.00 pm and Wednesday 3rd October at 11.00 am



A detached cottage situated on a pleasant country lane on the outskirts of Burntwood. Reception Hall, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price £130,000-£150,000

Lot 3 174 Swan Gardens,
Erdington, B23 6QQ

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121-289-3838



Residential investment situated close to the centre of Erdington. Ground floor studio currently let at £375.00 per calendar month on a 6 month Assured Shorthold Tenancy commencing 14th September 2012 comprising Living/Bedroom, Kitchen and Bathroom

Guide Price £28,000-£38,000

Lot 4 19 Park Road, Hammerwich,
Burntwood, WS7 0EE

Viewing: 28th September at 12.00 pm, 6th October at 11.00 am



A modern link detached bungalow residence with the benefit of gas fired central heating (not tested) and double glazing situated in a quiet well respected location within a short distance of Burntwood island. Set back from the road behind a block paved driveway affording ample off street parking approached via double gates the property comprises Large Utility/Store Room, Kitchen, Lounge, Inner Hallway, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Conservatory, Rear Garden.

Guide Price £90,000-£100,000

Lot 5 20 Botany Road,
Walsall, WS5 4ND

Viewing: 5th October at 12.15pm



Traditionally styled semi detached residence. The property was formally three bedroomed but is now two bedroomed but could be converted with little expenditure and offers an ideal opportunity for first time buyers/investors. Comprising: Fully Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Kitchen, Lobby, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price £65,000-£75,000

Lot 6 Land Cricket Close,
Walsall, WS5 3PU



Freehold land situated just off Birmingham Road as described in office copy entry title number WM525071 which consists of an adopted road together with two small plots, one in-between 1 and 3 Cricket Close, the other between 9 and 11 Cricket Close. These potential rights of way lead to allotments which are currently unused and one of these access points needs to be retained.

Guide Price £10,000-£15,000

Lot 7 37 Birchfield Way,
Walsall, WS5 4EA

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922 615222



A traditionally styled semi detached property with part double glazing and part central heating for which CASH OFFERS are required. Comprising: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Side Hall, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C.

Guide Price £55,000-£65,000

Lot 8 7 Circuit Close,
Willenhall, WV13 1EB

Viewing: 5th October at 10.30 am



Purpose built first floor studio flat set in a popular residential development comprising Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room.

Guide Price £28,000-£34,000

Lot 9 2 Whitehead Drive,
Sutton Coldfield, B76 9AN

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121 289 3838



A traditional style mid terraced house. The property offers spacious family accommodation and comprises of the following: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen Three Bedrooms, Box Room, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden.

Guide Price £100,000-£120,000

Lot 10 128a Chase Road,
Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 0DT

Viewing: Wednesday 26th September at 11.00 am and Saturday 6th October at 12.00 pm



A two bedroom link detached bungalow with garage in convenient location. Enclosed Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Inner Hallway, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Dining Room, Kitchen, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price £90,000-£110,000

Lot 11 3 Wats Drive, Oswestry,
Shropshire, SY11 1ET

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneer on 0121 289 3838



A well appointed two bedroom detached bungalow, conveniently located and comprising: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Fore and Rear Gardens, Utility Store.

Guide Price £70,000-£90,000

Lot 12 19 Penryn Road,
Walsall, WS5 3EU

Viewing: Tuesday, 2nd October @ 11am



A modern detached residence offering well planned spacious accommodation comprising: Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Conservatory, Inner Lobby, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, Separate W.C. Garage, Fore and Rear Garden.

Guide Price £150,000-£160,000

Lot 13 5 Roundhill Way,
Brownhills, WS8 7PW

Viewing: 5th October at 9.45 am



A three bedroom semi detached property situated within a short distance of M6 toll road comprising: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Part tiled Shower Room, Fore, Side and Rear Gardens with Separate Garage.

Guide Price £70,000-£80,000

Lot 14 43 Martingale Close,
Walsall, WS5 4QB

Viewing: 5th October at 12.45pm



Three bedroom link detached property with central heating and double glazing and comprising Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, W.C., Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage Fore and Rear Garden.

Guide Price £100,000-£120,000

Lot 15 46a Jerome Road,
Walsall, WS2 9SX

Viewing: 5th October at 11.00 am



A traditionally styled semi-detached dwelling house set in an elevated position on the Alumwell estate in Walsall, this property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement with attention to rear garden being essential comprising: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Side Lobby and Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price £45,000-£55,000

Lot 16 545 Kingsbury Road,
Erdington, B24 9NJ

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121 289 3838



This traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of full modernisation and improvement and is situated in a popular and sought after residential area and offers tremendous scope and improvement. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Rear Living Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price £50,000-£60,000



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DoingMore...

Honeybourne Way, Willenhall



£250,000

A "Showhome" style four bedroom detached home with en-suite to master bedroom. Situated on a generous corner plot and benefitting from a complete refit, including solar panels.



Bentley Lane, Willenhall



£230,000

A "Showhome Style" five bedroom, three bathroom detached home situated ideally for local shops and schools. Thought to offer more space than is usual due to being designed and built by the present owners. A viewing is absolutely essential!



PRICE REDUCED

Banks Street, The Manor



Offers Over £200,000

NEW

A six bedroom, four reception room detached residence benefitting from many features such as picture rails, coverings and stained glass windows. Would be ideal for someone looking for an annexe for elderly relatives due to a two bedroom plus lounge and bathroom extension to the rear.

Broad Lane, Essington



£215,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

An extended three bedroom detached home benefitting from exceptional master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite and conservatory overlooking well established gardens. A viewing is absolutely essential to appreciate the accommodation on offer here. Viewings by appointment with Dixons, Short Heath.



Granbourne Road, Walsall



£187,500

NEW INSTRUCTION

A "show home style" four bedroom detached home situated on the sought after "Briarsleigh" development. Having been extended and extensively improved by the current owners, a viewing is essential! Offered with no upward chain!



Ludlow Close, Willenhall



£165,000

PRICE REDUCED

Reduced for a limited period from the original price of £179,950 - don't miss out call us today! A stunningly presented two bedroom link-detached bungalow situated canal side at the head of a private drive on the extremely sought after "Summer Hayes" development.

Glamis Road, Willenhall



£150,000

A three bedroom link-detached home situated on a popular road in New Invention. Immaculately presented and further benefitting from a conservatory. Offered with no upward chain. Viewings by appointment with Dixons, Short Heath. Call us now, don't miss out!

Langmead Close, Walsall



£150,000

Situated in a cul-de-sac location with Briarsleigh, this three bedroom home is presented in modern order throughout! Benefitting from a double glazed porch, a double glazed conservatory, a kitchen-diner and utility room. Approached via a crepe print drive and garage, the property is an ideal second time buy.

Riverbank Road, Willenhall



Offers Over £150,000

SSTC

A "show home style" three bedroom semi-detached home with garage situated on the extremely sought after "Riverpoint" development. Benefitting further from refitted bathroom and a stunning en-suite with bespoke bath tub and furthermore a newly fitted kitchen. Viewing is essential!

Wolverhampton Road West, Willenhall



£150,000

NEW

An extended three bedroom semi-detached home situated on a popular road close to Jct.10 of the M6 and the Willenhall Gurdwara. Presented in immaculate order, a viewing is strongly advised. Viewings are by appointment with Dixons.

Dilloways Lane, Willenhall



£144,995

PRICE REDUCED

A three bedroom detached bungalow situated with good access to Wolverhampton and Willenhall Town, presented in good order and benefitting from driveway and garage. Offered with no upward chain. Viewing essential!

Hunts Lane, Willenhall



£140,000

SSTC

A newly refurbished three bedroom detached home situated on the extremely sought after "Woodlands" development. A viewing is essential to appreciate the level of finish here. Viewings by appointment with Dixons, Short Heath. No upward chain!

Lucknow Road, Willenhall

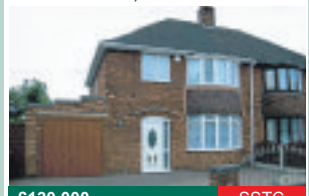


£135,000

NEW

A three bedroom semi-detached home with garage situated on a popular road in Short Heath. Benefitting from an exceptional garden and refitted kitchen and bathroom. A viewing is advised. Viewings by appointment!

Wilkes Avenue, Walsall

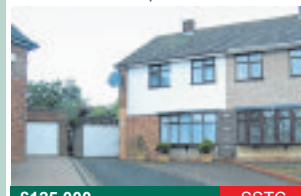


£130,000

SSTC

A well presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a sought after road close to Jct. 10 M6. Benefitting from a garage and conservatory overlooking mature gardens. A viewing is essential. Viewings by appointment with Dixons, Short Heath. Priced attractively to attract cash buyers!

Pinewood Close, Willenhall



£125,000

SSTC

Make us an offer! An extended three bedroom home on prestigious "Woodlands" estate. Local to the Woodlands school, situated in a cul-de-sac location and offered to market with the benefit of no chain! Garage, guest WC, drive and fitted kitchen.

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall



£120,000

SSTC

A stunningly presented three bedroom semi-detached home with en-suite, downstairs WC, recently built conservatory. Further benefitting from ample driveway parking and a garage. A viewing is essential!

Andrew Drive, Willenhall



£115,000

NEW

A rare opportunity to purchase a canal side three bedroom semi-detached home with unfinished double storey side extension and rear extension allowing for a further bedroom/2 bedrooms depending on configuration. Priced to sell a viewing is strongly advised early to avoid disappointment.

Churchill Road, Walsall



£114,000

PRICE REDUCED

A "show home style" three bedroom semi-detached home situated in ever popular Bentley. Ideal for Jct. 10 M6! Having been newly refurbished to an exceptional standard this would make an excellent first time buy! Viewings by appointment with Dixons, Short Heath.

Tildesley Drive, Willenhall



£110,000

A well presented two bedroom terraced home benefitting from a spacious conservatory and extended kitchen and separate dining room. A viewing is essential to appreciate the space and standard on offer here. Offered with no upward chain!

Waverley Road, Wednesbury



£97,500

NEW

An immaculately presented three bedroom terraced home situated close to Darlaston Town Centre. Benefitting from extensive refurbishment works and a brick built studio. Ideal first time buy. A viewing is essential!

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury



£85,000

A two bedroom, two bathroom ground floor apartment. Immaculately presented by its present owner and situated ideally for Wednesbury Town Centre and the Metro Station. Viewing recommended!



I & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



 TO LET ACORN MEWS, WILLENHALL Well Presented 2nd Floor Apartment Comprising Entrance Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen Having Integrated Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom With Shower Over, UPVC D/Glazing, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking. £450 PCM	 TO LET KINGSLEY STREET, WALSALL Large Three Bed Mid Terrace, Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, To The Outside The Property Has A Small Walled Garden To The Front And An Enclosed Rear Garden. £475 PCM	 TO LET VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid-Terrace Property Comprising Of Two Reception Rooms, Good Sized Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Two Double Bedrooms And A Large Family Bathroom With Shower, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Small Foreground And A Good Sized Rear Garden. £475 PCM	 TO LET RUGELEY AVENUE, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Large Through Lounge Diner, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Small Fore Garden And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden With Brick Built Store. £500 PCM	 TO LET RESERVOIR ST, WALSALL Extended Two Bedroom Semi Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Sun Room/Utility Extension, Central Heating, Double Glazing And Large Driveway. £500 PCM	 TO LET ST CHADS RD, BILSTON Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining/Utility Area, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Well Room, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £500 PCM	 TO LET FURZEBANK WAY, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Good Sized Lounge, Separate Dining Room/Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Length Driveway, Garage. £575 PCM	 TO LET HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Semi, Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Additional Playroom, Four Generous Bedrooms The Master Having A Walk In Wardrobe And En-Suite, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden. £695 PCM
 TO LET RYDAL CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Hallway/Utility, Dining Area/Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden. £69,995	 FOR SALE BRERETON RD, NEW INVENTION A Modern And Spacious Second Floor Flat Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Refitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Balcony, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Communal Garden. MUST VIEW. £69,995	 FOR SALE REMINGTON ROAD, BEECHDALE Large Three Bedroom Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Buy To Let Or First Time Buy. £79,950 ONO	 FOR SALE WESTERN AVENUE, BENTLEY Three Bedroom Mid Terrace Property. The Property Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms And A Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £84,995	 FOR SALE LOWE AVENUE, DARLASTON End Terraced Property Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Groundfloor W.C., Study, Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating Rear Garden & Driveway. £84,995	 FOR SALE KING EDWARD STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, First Floor W.C., UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Private Rear Garden. £87,995	 FOR SALE BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property In Need Of Some Modernisation. Comprising Of Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Rear Lean To, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, Majority Double Glazing, Central Heating And Driveway. £89,995	 FOR SALE STAFFORD ROAD, DARLASTON New Build Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Reception Area, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Ideal First Time Buy, Two Available £89,995
 FOR SALE SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In A Sought After Location, Two Bedrooms, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, En-Suite, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking £89,995	 FOR SALE LATIMER STREET, WILLENHALL Spacious Semi Detached Property Located Close To Willenhall Town Centre. The Property Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Downstairs W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage & Generous Garden. £92,995 ONO	 FOR SALE RUDGE CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented And Extended Three Bed Mid Townhouse Having UPVC Entrance Porch, Modern Fitted Kitchen Diner, Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms And Shower Room, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden. £99,500	 FOR SALE STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL A Well Presented Three Bedroom Family Home Having Spacious Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Study, Lounge, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Driveway. £105,000	 FOR SALE KENNEDY CRESCENT, DARLASTON Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs Bathroom, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Upstairs W.C., UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking. £99,995 ONO	 FOR SALE DEVON ROAD, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Luxury Fitted Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Great First Time Buy. Must View. £104,995	 FOR SALE RAVENSCROFT ROAD, WILLENHALL Considerably Improved Two Bedroom Town House. The Property Comprises Of Lounge Diner, Modern Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms And Shower Room, The Property Also Benefits From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £107,995	 FOR SALE CHATSWORTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £115,995
 FOR SALE LICHFIELD RD, WEDNESFIELD Traditional Three Terraced Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Conservatory, Spacious Bathroom And Three Good Sized Bedrooms, C/Heating, UPVC D/Glazing £117,995	 FOR SALE STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Double Length Driveway, Large Rear Garden, Popular Location. £119,995	 FOR SALE RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Semi, Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. £124,995	 FOR SALE QUEENS LEA, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Extended Property Having Spacious Lounge, Refitted Kitchen Opening Into Large Utility/Diner, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Enclosed Rear Garden And Tarmac Driveway. £124,995	 FOR SALE CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £124,995	 FOR SALE DURHAM AVENUE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen-Diner/Sitting Room, Modern Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking. Sought After Location. £129,950	 FOR SALE WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage. £134,995	 FOR SALE LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION Two/Three Bed Much Improved Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Groundfloor Bed Three Study, Two Double Bedrooms Upstairs & Stylish Refitted Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Cretaprint Driveway. £139,995
 FOR SALE RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached Having Entrance Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Crete Print Driveway, Sought After Location. £142,000	 FOR SALE JOHN RILEY DRIVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Detached Property, Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage And Gardens. The Property Also Benefits From C/Heating And D/Glazing. £144,995	 FOR SALE ADA WRIGHTON CL, NEW INV Immaculately Presented Three Bed Link Detached Having Entrance Hallway, Downstairs W.C., Large Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room And Garage (storage only), UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And A Full Width Driveway. £147,995	 FOR SALE CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Detached Property Having Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Conservatory Leading To Bespoke Luxury Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Luxury Family Bathroom, Garage And Large Gardens. The Property Also Benefits From C/Heating And D/Glazing. £149,950	 FOR SALE HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL A Modern Three Storey Three Bed Townhouse Having Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C., Spacious Lounge, Two Bedrooms And Shower Room To The First Floor, Master Bedroom And Large Bathroom On The Second Floor, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Garage. £149,995	 FOR SALE CEDAR PARK RD, NEW INVENTION Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating Garage/Workshop, Sought After Location Must Be Viewed!! £149,995	 FOR SALE LINDEN LANE, SHORT HEATH Extended Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Extended Dining Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C., Large Utility/Shower Room, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. D/Glazing C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. £154,995	 FOR SALE SANDRINGHAM AVE, WILLENHALL Detached House Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Groundfloor W.C., Three Generous Bedrooms, Loft Room, Family Bathroom, Integral Garage, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Driveway, App 200ft Rear Garden. £172,000
 FOR SALE FIVE FIELDS ROAD, WILLENHALL Refurbished Three Bed Semi, Two Reception Rooms, Refitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Groundfloor W.C., Three Generous Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating Garage, Driveway £155,995	 FOR SALE WOLVERHAMPTON ST, WILLENHALL Deceptively Spacious Four Bed Detached, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C., Conservatory, Four Generous Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden And Block Paved Driveway. £174,995	 FOR SALE COPPICKE LANE, SHORT HEATH Immaculately Presented Deceptively Spacious, Detached Bungalow Having Lounge, Large Conservatory, Refitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Landscaped Rear Garden Large Block Paved Driveway. £179,995	 FOR SALE GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL Unique Substantial Detached Property, Two Large Reception Rooms, Good Sized Conservatory Leading To Bespoke Luxury Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Luxury Family Bathroom, Three Double Bedrooms, DG & GCH, Driveway, Carport, Superb Landscaped Rear Garden. £190,000	 FOR SALE AMPLEFORTH DRIVE, WILLENHALL A Detached Four Bedroom With Entrance Hall, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Area, Separate WC, Lounge, Dining Area, Conservatory, Bathroom, En-Suite, Garage, Driveway, Rear Garden. £209,995 ONO	 FOR SALE NORTON GREEN LANE, CANNOCK Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Good Sized Rear Garden, Large Frontage. £219,995	 FOR SALE MILL LANE, WILLENHALL Detached Bungalow Having Larger Than Average Room Sizes And Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, 22ft Lounge, 21ft P+Shaped Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Four Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, And Guest Cloakroom, Garage, £235,000	 FOR SALE SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON Three Bed Detached Property, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Rooms, Ground Floor WC, Re-Fitted Family Bathroom, Part DG, GCH, Two Garages, Substantial Plot, Planning £279,950

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WILLENHALL MILL LANE

- Traditional style extended double fronted detached bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- 27ft extended lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen inc oven & hob
- Utility room
- Bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- Garage and off road parking
- Generous rear garden

£165,000 NO CHAIN



SNEYD PARK CEDAR PARK ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with white suite
- Garage/corridor
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

£139,950 VIEWING RECOMMENDED



SHORT HEATH POOLES LANE

- Extended traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen including oven and hob
- Generous rear garden
- Black paved driveway to the fore
- Internal viewing strongly recommended

£120,000 OFFERS



WILLENHALL LUCKNOW ROAD

- Extended traditional semi detached property
- Extended at both side and rear elevations
- Spacious family living accommodation
- Four bedrooms, two with fitted wardrobes
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows
- Principal bathroom plus separate shower room
- Large plot with gardens to front rear & side

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000



SHORT HEATH TENNYSON ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed improved traditional style and town house
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows, gas central heating
- 19ft through lounge
- Superb refitted kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility/playroom
- First floor bathroom with shower
- Gardens to the rear

£109,500 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



SUMMER HAYES CASTLE DRIVE

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Inexpensive spacious versatile accommodation
- Three for two bedrooms, downstairs bathroom four
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Breakfast kitchen and utility room/VIC
- Upstairs refitted Jack and Jill bathroom
- 21 modern length garage
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £160,000, NO CHAIN



ESSINGTON CRANSTOCK CLOSE

- Pleasant detached property
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority upvc double glazed windows
- 20ft through lounge
- Separate dining room
- 19ft fitted dining kitchen
- 19ft established rear garden

£235,000 OFFERS



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Traditional style extended detached bungalow
- Much requested location
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- UPVC double kitchen including oven and hob
- Gas central heating
- Established front and rear gardens

NOW £250,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL BARMOUTH CLOSE

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- UPVC double kitchen including oven and hob
- Gas central heating
- Established front and rear gardens

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £120,000



WILLENHALL PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Superbly appointed spacious modern and town house
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Three for two bedrooms, two with en-suites
- Integral garage, pleasant rear garden
- 19ft through lounge
- Superb refitted kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility/playroom
- First floor bathroom with shower
- Gardens to the rear

£154,995 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



WILLENHALL DILLOWAYS LANE

- Traditional style end terrace property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed
- 19ft through lounge
- Superb refitted kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility/playroom
- First floor bathroom with shower
- Gardens to the rear

£87,950 VIEWING RECOMMENDED



NEW INVENTION GLAMIS ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- 28ft side garage, established rear garden

£164,950 OFFERS



OFF OVERDALE DRIVE, WALSALL CONDOOVER CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen and utility room/study
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden

£144,950 NO CHAIN



WEDNESFIELD WORTHY DOWN

- Pleasantly appointed link detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes
- Gas central heating, upvc double glazed windows
- 14ft lounge with feature fireplace
- Dining room and fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Garage and block paved driveway
- Landed gardens to front and rear

£149,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN

WANTED

BUNGALOWS IN ALL AREAS

VALUED UP TO £150,000

SOLD
subject to contract

WILLENHALL
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD

- Conveniently located two bedroom detached bungalow
- Two need of some internal modernisation
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and breakfast kitchen
- UPVC double glazed sun room
- Garage and off road parking
- Pleasant gardens to front and rear

£100,000 NO CHAIN

WANTED

THREE BEDROOM PROPERTIES IN NEW INVENTION AND SHORT HEATH UP TO £130,000

SOLD
subject to contract

WILLENHALL
FIVE FIELDS ROAD

- Spacious extended traditional style semi
- Potential extension
- Two bedrooms and lift room
- Two reception rooms
- 20ft extended kitchen
- Bathroom and separate shower room
- Large established rear garden
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing

£179,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN

WANTED

ONE OR TWO BEDROOM MAISONNETTES OR APARTMENTS IN SHORT HEATH AND NEW INVENTION UP TO £90,000



SUMMER HAYES FENN RISE

- Spacious link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms & dressing room
- Majority triple glazing, gas central heating
- 32ft double length garage, rear garden

£164,950



COPPICE FARM HIGHMOOR CLOSE

- Modern style semi detached on generous corner plot
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and breakfast kitchen
- Sun room and conservatory (open to planning permission)
- Upstairs shower room
- Garage with downstairs vc, gardens to front, side & rear

£124,950 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Superb extended modern detached property
- Five bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Office/occasional room
- Bedroom 6 detached property
- Conservatory
- En-suite shower room
- Excellent fitted bathroom
- Office/occasional room

£289,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL



COPPICE FARM SNOWDON WAY

- Pleasantly appointed extended detached family residence
- Five bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining areas
- Breakfast kitchen with shower
- Utility room and domestic guest bedroom
- Indoor heated and paved rear garden
- Internal viewing strongly recommended

£215,000



SUMMER HAYES FARBROOK WAY

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- 28ft side garage, off road parking
- Attractive rear garden

£130,000 OFFERS



COPPICE FARM AMBLESIDE GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached bungalow
- 75% shared ownership, over 55's only
- Two bedrooms
- Single lounge/diner
- Washchair friendly
- Double glazed windows, gas central heating
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Two allocated off road parking bays

£115,000 75% SHARE, ANY SERIOUS OFFER CONSIDERED



SNEYD PARK RADSTOCK ROAD

- Splendidly appointed improved semi detached house
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Superb refitted kitchen with oven & hob
- Garage and pleasant gardens to the rear
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Utility room
- Large established rear garden
- Gas central heating, upvc double glazed windows
- Garage and pleasant gardens to the rear

£149,500 VIEWING ESSENTIAL



COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Superb UPVC double glazed windows
- Fitted kitchen and utility rooms
- Excellent refitted bathroom with shower
- Indoor rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Excellent refitted kitchen including oven and hob

£184,500 OFFERS FOR QUICK SALE



BENTLEY, WALSALL CUNNINGHAM ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge
- Extended sun room
- Breakfast kitchen/utility room
- Spacious shower room
- Lovely established rear garden
- Ideal for a first time purchaser or a young family

£110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



DARLASTON WOLVERHAMPTON STREET

- Spacious first floor flat in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Gas warm air central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 14ft lounge
- Kitchen and shower room
- Communal entrance with security intercom
- Attractive rear garden

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £56,000, NO CHAIN



SUMMER HAYES PERRY HALL DRIVE

- Drastically spacious semi detached property
- 2 1/4 bedrooms (suggested 4th bed off bathroom)
- Refitted kitchen with separate shower
- Refitted bathroom with separate shower
- UPVC extended double glazing, gas central heating
- Double length garage with utility area
- Large enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Black paved off road parking

NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £155,000



WILLENHALL SANDBUDS ROAD

- Edwardian style detached residence
- Generous plot with parking & two garages
- Four bedrooms, master with en-suite shower
- Dining room and 20ft extended lounge
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Utility room
- Large established rear garden
- Gas central heating, upvc double glazed windows
- Garage and pleasant gardens to the rear

WAS £289,950 NOW £279,950



COPPICE FARM BONNESS GROVE

- Superb modern detached residence
- Cal-de-oc position
- Three generous bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Excellent refitted kitchen including oven and hob
- Splendid UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Garage divided into study and storage room
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows

£188,500



COPPICE FARM TORRIDON ROAD

- Pleasant modern style two bedroom bungalow
- Delightful cal-de-oc location
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge
- Lounge with patio doors to the rear garden
- Bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking to the fore

NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £115,000, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL HIGH ROAD

- Spacious modern style detached property
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
- Black paved driveway

NOW £185,000

www.skitts.net

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Tipton
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**7 Queens Parade
Bloxwich
Walsall
WS3 2EX
01922 711444**



**Bloxwich
Stafford Road**
● Extended Four Bedroom Detached
● Three Reception Rooms
● Re-Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
● Dressing Area & En-Suite
● Two Garages
● Large Front & Rear Gardens
● Parking
In the Region of £399,950



**Bloxwich
Enderley Drive**
● Three bedroom detached bungalow
● Lounge / Diner
● Re-Fitted Kitchen
● Re-Fitted Shower Room
● Separate W.C.
● Double Glazed/Central Heating
● Garage
● Front Garden Block Paved
In the Region of £289,950



**Bloxwich
Kedleston Close**
● Four Bedroom Detached
● Lounge/Dining Room
● Kitchen
● Study/Games Room
● Utility
● En-Suite
● Guest Cloakroom
● Conservatory
● Family Bathroom
● Detached Garage
In the Region of £239,950



**Bloxwich
Victoria Avenue**
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
● Jack & Jill Family Bathroom
● Conservatory
● Tarmac Driveway
● Large Rear Garden With Block Paving
In the Region of £215,000



**Bloxwich
Formby Way**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Extended Fitted Kitchen
● En-Suite Shower Room
● Conservatory
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway
In the Region of £215,000



**Walsall
Birmingham Road**
● Five Bedroom Victorian Family Home
● Extended Kitchen/Diner
● Bathroom
● Block Paved Driveway
● Rear Landscaped Garden
Offers in excess £199,950



**Bloxwich
Ambergate Close**
● Extended Four Bed Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Two Bathrooms
● Off Road Parking
● D.Glazing & C.C.Heating
● Well Presented Rear Garden
In the Region of £195,000



**Bloxwich
Lytham Grove**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Cloakroom W.C.
● En-Suite
● Solid Timber Flooring
● Family Bathroom
● Conservatory
● Integral Garage
£192,000



**Essington
Albany Grove**
● Four Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Extended Kitchen
● Conservatory
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Carpet & Garage
● Driveway
In the Region of £185,000



**Willenhall
Crab Lane**
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached
● Through Lounge/Diner
● Kitchen
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite
● Ground Floor Shower Room
● First Floor Shower Room
● Utility Room
● Garage & Off Road Parking
● Gardens
Offers in excess of £175,000



**Willenhall
Wood Lane**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Conservatory
● Garage/Workshop
● Gardens
● Off Road Parking
In the Region of £165,000



**Walsall
Water Reed Grove**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Dining Room
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom
● Master Bed with En-Suite Shower Room
● Gardens
● Garage & Off Road Parking
In the Region of £159,950



**Willenhall
Dursley Close**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Sitting Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room
● Bathroom
● Rear Garden
● Integral Garage & Block Paved Driveway
Offers in excess of £149,950



**Walsall
Leamore Lane**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Kitchen/Diner
● Study
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Dining Room
● First Floor Lounge
● Family Bathroom
● En-Suite
● Shower Room
● Gardens
● Detached Garage
In the Region of 145,000



**Walsall
Leamore Lane**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Diner
● En-Suite
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Garage
● Off Road Parking to Rear
● Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
In the Region of £135,000



**Walsall
Little Island Drive**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Diner
● Driveway
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite
● Family Bathroom
● Integral Garage
● Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
Offers Over £130,000



**Willenhall
High Road**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking
● D.Glazing & Central Heating
Offers in excess of £130,000



**Bloxwich
Newhome Way**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Fitted Kitchen
● Lounge
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room
● Gardens
● Detached Garage & Off Road Parking
Offers in excess of £130,000



**Bloxwich
Drake Road**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Extended Dining Room
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Garage & Off Road Parking
Offers in excess of £127,950



**Walsall
Smiths Flour Mill**
● Two Bedroom Penthouse Apartment
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Dining Room
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing
● Allocated Parking
● Family Bathroom
● Many Upgrades (Please ask for Details)
Offers in excess of £125,000



**Bloxwich
Raymond Close**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Dining Room
● Shower Room
● Separate W.C.
● Integral Garage
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking to Rear
Offers in excess of £120,000



**Bloxwich
Grantown Grove**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Kitchen
● Lounge
● Fitted Bathroom
● Rear Enclosed Garden
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
In the Region of £116,950



**Rushall
King George Crescent**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating
● Gardens
● Driveway
● NO CHAIN
In the Region of £115,000



**Bloxwich
Henley Close**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Extended Kitchen
● Dining Room
● Family Bathroom
● Double Glazed
● Central Heating
● Part Gas Central & Double Glazing
In the Region of £110,000



**Walsall
Bloxwich Road**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Extended Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Rear Lobby/Utility
● Guest W.C.
● Wet Room
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Rear Access
● Off Road Parking
In the Region of £110,000



**Walsall
Parsons Way**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Bespoke Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room
● Family Bathroom
● Gardens
● D.Glazing & Central Heating
● Large Storage Unit to Rear
In the Region of £99,950



**Bloxwich
Bell Tower Close**
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Open Plan Lounge/Diner
● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Communal Grounds
● Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating
● Integral Garage
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Allocated Parking
● NO CHAIN
In the Region of £87,500



**Bloxwich
Glastonbury Crescent**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Kitchen
● Lounge
● Fitted Kitchen
● Rear Lobby with Downstairs W.C.
● Family Bathroom
● Separate W.C.
● Gardens
● Detached Garage to Rear
Offers in excess of £85,000



**Bloxwich
Booth Street**
● Extended Three Bedroom Semi
● Lounge
● Dining Room
● Kitchen
● Off Road Parking
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

SUVs have a lot going for them

DON'T be so hard on the big SUV. There may be a few individuals who buy one because they think it makes them look important, or because it is the favoured transport of some Premiership footballers, but ignore them.

The reality is that a full-size SUV is pos-

sibly the most practical car that money can buy. They're big, comfortable, versatile and luxurious.

It's the kind of purchase you make and spend every single day being pleased with yourself for.

The reality is though that there are only a handful that truly qualify as large - seven seats as standard is a must in other words.

This is why the Mercedes-Benz GL-Class has to be on your short-list.

First introduced to the UK back in 2008, a heavily revised version has been announced with sales in this country planned for early next year.

If you were familiar with the old car then you should spot the new GL across a crowded car park, but the changes are significant, and for the better.

It has a much cleaner look all round, with smoothed-out bumpers, the family face and sharper creases down the sides. There's no hiding the fact this is a

By Matt Joy

big car but you don't wander up to it with a sense of fear: smart design means the new GL has presence but won't intimidate.

Choose the right model and you can have a contrasting colour for the front spoiler and sill trims; it's a subtle addition but a remarkably effective one.

Comprehensive

You take a half-step up into the driver's seat to be greeted by a cabin that is clear, comprehensive in its offerings and generous with its luxury.

You sit high of course, not precariously so but with a fantastic view of what's ahead.

The layout of the dashboard is familiar Mercedes, as is the quality, so it's pretty straightforward to control all the systems and the feeling of luxury is unquestionable.

Features like the part-wood steering wheel might sound excessive but it is these small touches that give an S-class experience. More than anything, however, it is

the driving that could lead you to believe you are ensconced in a luxury saloon.

For starters, the level of refinement is first rate.

Whether you go for petrol or diesel power at low to middling cruising speeds, the engine is virtually silent, wind noise is well suppressed and despite their size, the wheels only transmit a faint rumble.

Add into that the superb ride quality delivered by the revised air suspension system and you have a seriously comfortable car for you and your passengers - it could easily perform limousine duties for those needing something a little tougher.

The GL's seven seats don't present the usual problems: an electric folding system means you can raise or lower the second and third rows with the briefest push of a button.

It may be comfort-biased, but the GL is far from being an automotive puddyng.

For starters, the steering is light and accurate, offering more than sufficient feel to deliver comfortable cruising and confident cornering.

The air suspension in standard form is well judged, but the optional set-up adds

active anti-roll bars which are genuinely effective and create a scarcely-believable cornering experience almost completely without body roll.

In the UK, the most popular version will inevitably be the GL350 CDI, which offers up 190hp and 620Nm of torque, all delivered through the smooth seven-speed automatic transmission.

There is ample torque available from low revs and the GL350 CDI simply gets on with the job.

Under full acceleration such is the linearity of the delivery that it almost feels languid, but the 0-62mph time of 7.9 seconds tells no lies - particularly remarkable when you consider the GL350 can manage 192g/km and beat forthcoming EU6 emission regulations.

The GL is the kind of car that could easily stay in your life for years simply because you know it can handle whatever you throw at it, the bonus being that it is also very desirable in its own right.

But if you have the means, treat yourself to the blockbusting AMG version...



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Five ways to combat the ever-rising price of petrol



Going green – one surefire way of cutting fuel bill and saving the planet is to use less of it

With the first signs of autumn beginning to appear, millions of UK motorists face a shaky outlook as the cost of fuel continues to rise.

Prices have increased steadily throughout the year and are almost at the same level they reached at their peak in 2009, according to the AA's latest figures.

These high fuel prices come as planned rises in rail fares leave families and commuters with even less transport choice.

And the general state of the economy at the moment means many people have less disposable income.

Unfortunately, there's not much the individual or the government can do

about it at present – although the Office Of Fair Trading's investigation into the relationship between pump prices and crude oil has the potential to deliver a fairer deal.

Simply the only way in which the individual can reduce the size of their fuel bill is to use less of it.

Five simple tips could help shave 10 or even 20 per cent off the average fuel bill and cost nothing to implement:

- Tyre pressures are crucial not only for safety but also for rolling resistance, which is how much friction there is between the tyre and the road. Keep your tyres at their optimum pressure and you minimise rolling resistance while maximising grip.

- Air conditioning is a wonderful thing in summer but it does use extra

fuel. Switch it off when it's not required.

- Clutter in the boot adds weight to your car and a heavier car requires more fuel to make it move, so remove everything you don't need.

- Having your windows open creates extra wind resistance which saps fuel. Keep them closed whenever possible.

- Finally, and most importantly, driving with good anticipation is the key to fuel efficiency. Ideally your speed should change as little as possible.

Looking well ahead will mean you have to stop less often as you blend into traffic. Also, make sure you brake gently and slowly and accelerate smoothly.

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Porsche insists the Cayenne S Diesel is the only V8 SUV to offer stop-start technology

Cayenne S Diesel delivers top torque and fuel saving

Porsche has announced a new Cayenne S Diesel, which brings huge torque figures and very reasonable fuel economy.

The 4.2-litre V8 engine produces 376bhp, but more importantly 627lb.ft of torque – more than double what a standard Porsche 911 produces.

It's enough to power the SUV behemoth from rest to 62mph in just 5.7 seconds.

Its top speed is 157mph, and thanks to a stop-start system, its CO2 output is officially rated at only 218g/km.

Porsche claims the Cayenne S Diesel is the only V8 diesel SUV in the world to have stop-start technology.

Fuel consumption tested on the standard combined cycle reaches 34mpg, which, when combined with the S Diesel's 100-litre fuel tank means that a total of up to 745 miles is possible between fill-ups.

This new performance diesel is styled to look very much the same as the petrol Cayenne S. It's also fitted with a sophisticated tracking system, equivalent to Thatcham category five level.

Standard equipment includes Porsche Trac-

tion Management (PTM) all-wheel drive, which aims to provide a rear-wheel-drive feel but with the traction advantages of four driven wheels.

Buyers will also get a leather interior, dual-zone automatic climate control, front and rear parking sensors, cruise control, an audio system operated through a seven-inch touch-screen, eight-way powered adjustment for the front seats, 18-inch alloy wheels and a three-year warranty.

Prices will start at £58,243 when the model goes on sale in early 2013.

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Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.
Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
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12/1021/FL
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FOR: Storage unit attached to existing building for archives. New meeting room and bin store for medical waste.
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Hosts are stung by Hornets in Vase clash

Aldridge 16 Telford Hornets 33
THIS RFU Junior Vase fixture between Aldridge and Telford was a lot tighter than the score might suggest.

The visitors, who play in the league above Aldridge, started tentatively which the home side capitalised on to push play up-field to win an early penalty – well struck by full-back Alex Yates.

Telford rallied and came more into the game and started to intrude into home territory.

A good three-quarter movement gave centre Liam Evans space out wide to race down the touchline to queue into the corner. Ben Lewis added the extra points to put them ahead.

Almost from the restart Aldridge struck. A well-worked three-quarter move launched No.10 Ben Drinkwater through a gap in the defence which gave him a clear run to the posts.

Alex Yates converted and added a penalty just before the break to give the hosts a 13-7 interval lead.

Aldridge were competitive, but it was in the first 10 minutes after the restart that the game was lost.

A lapse of concentration in defence gifted a couple of tries to the visitors and opened up a seven-point gap which Aldridge spiritedly set about nullifying. In the end their only reward was a third penalty for Yates.

The effort took its toll and as the final whistle approached, Telford took advantage of a wearying defence to score two further tries, both converted.

Football results

Lichfield & Walsall District
Ask Motors Premier: Burntwood St Matthews 7, Erdington Star 2; Farmer Johns 1, Pelsall Villa Colts 5; Lichfield Social A 3 ASP Victoria 0.
Rio Driving Tuition League 1: Freemans A 9 Lichfield Social B 0; Hazelwood Ath 0 Prince of Wales 6; Red Lion, Aldridge 2 Longdon Chet 3; Stornall 1 Bush, Pelsall 7.
Stretton Paving League 2: Kress 4 Paradise Lounge 8; Burntwood 3 Trent Valley Rvrs 1; Lichfield DC 3; Hussey Arms 6; Rushall 2; Lions 2; Trident 5; Carnock Wood 1.
Computa-Tec League 3: Duke of Wellington 2 Freemans B 2; Ros Park 2 Brownhills Gorm Colts 5.
Jack Donnelly Cup Round 1: Pheassey Ath 0 Dosthill Rgrs 2.
Sam Kimberley Cup Round 1: Bridgetown Social 14 Shire Oak Saints Warriors 1; Chase Terrace Victoria 5 Essington 0; Green Rock Tavern 5 St Josephs 1; Lamb & Flag 4; Bowman 3; Shire Oak 1; Celler Door 3; Woodys 4 Burntwood Dragons B 1.

Wood and Villa demolish the opposition

Walsall Wood 5 Pershore Town 0
THREE goals in the last 13 minutes saw Wood get back into Midland Combination Premier league action with a demolition of lowly Pershore. They took the lead on seven minutes but had to wait until the 55th minute to add a second with a penalty.

Ahmet Bilgimer's low cross was cut out by Lewis Critcher to deny Lewis Taylor Boyce at the expense of a corner. Corey Curritthers played a clever one-two with debutant Anthony Juxon, crossed into the box and when keeper Matt Oliver pushed the ball into the air,

Bilgimer was in quickly to score with a downward header.

A minute into the second half Steve Webb hit a low drive that keeper Dale Faultless at full stretch pushed round his post.

On 55 minutes a long ball into the box was won by Bilgimer. He rounded keeper Oliver and there was minimal contact but the referee gave a penalty which Drew Aiton despatched.

On 77 minutes Bilgimer forced a great near post save from Oliver. From the corner ball Taylor Boyce scored with a peach of a low drive into the far corner of the net.

Football

Wood increased the lead from another corner on 82 minute when Aiton 25 yards out scored with a superb rising drive. On 90 minutes Craig Deakin played a neat one-two with Taylor Boyce then cut inside and curled a cracker into the top right hand corner.

Pelsall Villa 0 Bloxwich United 4
Bloxwich remain unbeaten in the Midland Combination Premier as they completed a comfortable victory against local rivals Pelsall. Bloxwich settled quickly and

after five minutes Lewis Perry clipped the Pelsall crossbar.

Bloxwich's early pressure paid off when Leon Taylor raced in the 11th minute poked the ball past the advancing keeper.

Taylor missed a glorious chance to extend the lead just four minutes later when he blazed wide after a flick on by John Freeman had put him in the clear.

Bloxwich extended their lead in the 34th minute when a John Collins free kick was headed down by Ashley Bellingham to Leon Taylor who slotted home his second goal of the game.

Pelsall enjoyed a fair amount of possession in the opening exchanges of the second half as Bloxwich sat back on their lead.

But Taylor grabbed his hat-trick when he latched onto another ball and stroked home past the keeper in the 61st minute.

Pelsall couldn't find a way through with Ashley Bellingham and Ryan McAllister dominant at the heart of the Bloxwich defence.

The game was virtually ended as a contest in the 70th minute when substitute Adrian Jones curled a shot from 25 yards into the bottom corner of the Pelsall net.

Weston's try is the highlight

Walsall 46 Burton 8
WALSALL'S united rugby side had some desperate defending to do during the opening quarter.

But they began to gain confidence and eventually produced some very good rugby.

A length of the field passage of play for the final try was the highlight of the afternoon. Roger Weston scored in his first game back.

Other scorers were Josh Hickman (2), Neil Pittaway, Jeffrey Williamson and Michael Benson.

Andy Hawkins kicked two penalties and five conversions.

Walsall thirds won 45-7 at Burton while the under-17s were victorious at Tamworth by 24-5 and the under-15s had a 55-0 home win over Willenhall.

Seven's heaven to Olympic side

Rushall Olympic U11 7 Beechdale Juniors U11 1
TWO goals apiece for Lucas Fallon and Zach Andrews helped Rushall to a big victory.

A cross from Reece Allen found Tom Day for the first goal. Reagan Palethorpe adding the second.

Fallon scored twice before Beechdale got one back.

But a brace from Andrews either side of Reece Nunne's header rounded off the scoring.

Pumas catch Girls napping

AFC Phoenix Girls U15 0 Wryley Pumas Girls U15 1
IN only their second competitive game, Phoenix girls narrowly missed out in an end-to-end match.

Katie Evans forced an excellent save from the Pumas keeper and soon afterwards struck a post.

Pumas caught the home team napping from the second half kick-off with a goal that was enough to secure the points.

Lions' pride at 10-goal salvo

Legion Lions U13 10 Blakenall Harriers U10 4
LEGION LIONS displayed good teamwork to come out on top in a game packed with goals.

Ellis Greateix bagged four while L-Jay Campbell, Josh Toyne, Kian Dwyer, Gianni Boparan, Bradley Richardson and Nathaniel Gardner all got one apiece.

Walsall 3 Preston 1

METEORS streaked across the Walsall skyline at the weekend, but it's the Saddlers who have lift-off.

They may not have hit the stratosphere yet but Dean Smith's team are starting to prove they can be his rocket men, *writes Nick Mashiter.*

As the meteors broke through the earth's ozone layer on Friday night it was a prelude to Walsall's stellar performance.

The only zone the Saddlers have been concerned about of late has been the League One relegation zone – but after Saturday's win over Preston, even that may prove irrelevant.

Seventh in League One, one defeat in their last seven games and playing some fine football – not a bad return.

Smith's Banks's Babes – the rough diamonds and misfits – are being polished into a team who can compete, very well and very stylishly.

Panache

This was an acid test after defeat to Stevenage and now both league losses have been followed by an impressive reaction – one which has been underlined by the brand of football.

There is panache and elegance to the Saddlers' play. The confidence which has been instilled by the ever-positive Smith runs through the players.

Smith desires the team to be known as a good one – not just a young one – and performances such as Saturday will have them changing monikers swiftly.

They can be, and will have to be, abrasive at times but there is so much promise in a side who have ignored the odds and are now actively mocking them.

Smith's dynamic, inventive side were good – very good – to rally from a goal behind, inspired by George Bowerman's brace.

The striker typifies the Saddlers. Farmed out to Redditch 18 months ago the 20-year-



Will Grigg on the ball for Walsall in their victory over Preston



Walsall's George Bowerman has a nose for goal

old was on a six-month deal – the last chance saloon – this time last year. Eyebrows were raised when that was extended into a two-and-a-half year deal last December. But how he has matured.

Five goals this season represents a fine return from a player feeling his way into his first real full campaign. Bowerman's improvement matches Walsall's trajectory and Smith's manifesto. He has been given his chance and grasped it.

Continued performances will inevitably lead to greater outside interest but that is some way off yet and others, such as the irrepressible James Baxendale, also deserve credit for victory.

It was a win which also began to hand back the Banks's Stadium to the Saddlers. The much maligned home ground so often

made of sand has rediscovered its foundations.

Could the Saddlers finally have a home to rely on? Two defeats in the last 13 games represent a significant improvement from the days of home heartache.

But a large dollop of caution and realism must still come with the Saddlers. They are an evolving team, not one which is perfect, as Joel Byrom's 10th-minute opener highlighted as he was left unmarked to head past debutant keeper Karl Darlow.

The Nottingham Forest loanee should have done better but Walsall persevered. The work ethic and, more importantly, the belief remained.

Florent Cuvelier and Andy Taylor were denied by Steve Simonsen and, after Darlow tipped Stuart Beavon's header over, Baxen-

dale curled in a delightful leveller. The Saddlers persisted in the second-half, picking their way through predictable Preston, until Bowerman was hauled down in the area by Shane Cansdell-Sherriff.

The striker sent Simonsen the wrong way from the spot and three minutes later curled into the corner from 20-yards.

It ended the contest and only Simonsen's saves from Baxendale and Taylor's free-kick denied the Saddlers further goals.

The points, performance and plaudits were Walsall's to leave them seventh and nine points clear of the bottom four.

To say enjoy it while it lasts would be a disservice to the Saddlers – implying it won't last long – but the struggles of the last few years demand it.

Enjoy it. Revel in it. Long may it continue.

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SPORT

Sniffer

George nose the way to goal
Page 63



The sting

Hornets swarm over unlucky Aldridge
Page 63

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Gethin is a hit with the IBF in title fight

WALSALL'S Martin Gethin gave up home advantage and still became a world-ranked fighter with a gruelling 11th-round stoppage of Carl Johanneson in London.

Gethin dropped Leeds' Johanneson in the 10th and halted his opponent in the next round of their IBF International lightweight title tussle on Frank Warren's dinner show at the Mayfair Hotel.

The two-time English champion overcame the wiles of a Lonsdale belt holder and a former world WBF champion.

Johanneson - the nephew of former Leeds United footballer Albert - started strongly with a place in the IBF's top 50 at stake and took the fight for the first three rounds.

Forced

Despite the switch of his bout from Walsall Town Hall on the same night, Gethin recovered from the early blows but only really forced his way into the contest from the eighth round.

His left jab popped out like never before to negate what had been forceful long shots from Johanneson and he was able to turn the tables in his favour.

A relentless pressure offence by Gethin saw a barrage of hooks end with a right that dropped Johanneson to one knee in the 10th round, which pulled Gethin back into the running on points.

Gethin got close enough to let his shots go again in the following session.

Another flurry of punches forced referee Marcus McDonnell to step in and end the fight.

Amie is just four-some

Bloxwich 7 Streety 1

FOUR-GOAL Amie Lawrence helped Bloxwich ladies hockey firsts to a big victory in their opening league game.

Despite having a goal disallowed, Bloxwich were three up by half-time following a Sarah Duncombe strike and a brace from Lawrence.

In the second period Lawrence got another two, Duncombe notched her second and Joanne Field was also on the mark.

The men's firsts lost a friendly 5-3 at Cannock, Adam Baldwin scoring twice and Liam Brazier once.

Late mistake costs Pics share of the points

FORMER leaders Rushall Olympic slipped to a second successive Evo-Stik League Premier Division defeat in the space of just four days.

A late penalty ensured further disappointment for Pics after their midweek reversal at rock-bottom Eastwood Town.

Olympic had started well and a good ball from Dave Walker sent Ahmed Obeng scampering into the penalty area on 21 minutes, but as the winger centred across the face of the goal, Michael Clarke just failed to make a connection at the far post.

Despite enjoying a fair amount of possession during the opening exchanges Rushall

Rushall Olympic 2 Nantwich Town 3

had keeper Chris Gemmell to thank two minutes later after pulling off a great save.

Ten minutes prior to the interval and Danny Bragoli was fortunate to avoid a caution for hacking down Chris Flynn.

It appeared to be going awry for the Pics in the 42nd minute as Christian Smith sent a first-time finish beyond Gemmell from close range.

Straight from the restart the hosts went on the offensive and as the ball was worked inside from the right channel to Obeng, He centred to Walker, who drilled a clinical low

finish inside the near post from eight yards.

In the second minute of injury time, Olympic inflicted more woes upon themselves as a crude challenge by Josh Craddock on Maguire conceded a needless free-kick just outside the box.

Smith curled the set-piece around the defensive wall, only to see Gemmell produce an outstanding one-handed save down to his right.

But as the ball looped upwards Will Jones reacted quickest to head in at close quarters. Olympic got themselves back on level

terms in the 58th minute when Lei Brown picked out the run of Obeng through the right channel. Kyle Haynes latched onto his ball to the far post to score.

As the game entered the third minute of injury time, Haynes played an ill-judged back pass towards his own penalty area. Gemmell anticipated the danger and dashed off his line but only succeeded in upending an opponent and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot and issuing a caution.

Sean Cooke clinically converted straight down the centre of goal to give his team all three points.

Red card is costly for Star

Stratford Town 9 Continental Star 0

DEFENSIVE errors and a red card cost Continental dear as Midland Alliance leaders Stratford Town ran riot at the DCS Stadium.

The game changed on 23 minutes when Continental were reduced to 10 men - Aaron Garvey seeing red for foul and abusive language.

Anthony Robinson rose above the Star defence and headed the ball home to give Stratford the lead in the 40th minute.

On the stroke of half-time, they doubled it thanks to a Henry Donaghey penalty after a foul by Josh O'Garro.

Luke Edwards headed in a rebound on 55 minutes and Aaron Forde smashed a 30-yard thunderbolt into the net five minutes later.

Andy Morris sprung the offside trap to net in the 62nd minute and Robinson grabbed his second to make it 6-0.

Morris slammed in the seventh on 83 minutes and completed his hat-trick soon after. There was time for Robinson to add his own third.

On Tuesday night, Star were facing Boldmere St Michaels in the first round of the Walsall Senior Cup.

Colts' four-te is pulling off a win

FC Premier U13 0 Pelsall Villa Colts U13 4

A TODD EDMUNDS hat-trick ensured Pelsall began the new season on a high.

Daniel Caunt rounded off the scoring with a neat header from a fine cross by Harry Shaw.

FC Premier played their part in a good game and also donated kit to Pelsall's Gambia Appeal Fund.

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BOSSSES QUIT AFTER LOCKSMEN CRUSHED

WILLENHALL TOWN'S management team quit after their team crashed to a 6-0 defeat at Wolverhampton Casuals.

Anthony Isherwood and Chris Cousins tendered their resignations following the West Midlands Premier match.

A club statement issued by secretary and director Simon D Hall read: "Anthony feels he has taken his role as far as possible and that the team now needs a different steer and direction. Anthony expressly asked to pass on his thanks to players, supporters and board for their support during his tenure."

"The board at Willenhall Town would like to express their sincere thanks for the time and effort put in by Anthony and Chris since their appointment and wish them and their respective families every success."

"Anthony will be with us for a couple of games and moving forward the post of manager will be advertised very shortly and we will be seeking expressions of interest."

Wolverhampton Casuals 6 Willenhall Town 0 Willenhall threatened early on with Josh Edwards firing a shot over the bar.

But Casuals then took a grip and veteran goal-getter Mark Bellingham rifled home after a right-flank break on eight minutes.

He doubled the lead when a break down the opposite side again left him free to net on 17 minutes.

Reds' heads dropped after the third goal midway through the second half, when Bellingham was played in and scored.

Keeper Jordan Ellis made two fine saves and another effort was cleared off the line, but more goals came from Tom Maydew, Luke Tudor and skipper John Cordy.

Sad Walsall's hopes of victory go for a Burton

Burton 41 Walsall 28

THE Walsall management will be disappointed at the outcome of this game at Peel Croft.

The visitors dominated possession and territory for long periods but failed to take advantage of the opportunities.

Furthermore, their usually fairly solid defence was exposed on several occasions by the strong-running Burton outfit.

From a lineup, some quick passing saw centre Brookes cut through the Walsall defence for the opening score.

Two minutes later and a similar attack from 50 metres saw scrum half Banton dart across the Walsall line. He also converted to give his team a 14-0 lead.

Walsall got their first points when Wood put over a 30-metre penalty. But it was soon 21-3, as the visitors failed to maintain possession and a counter attack saw Peach score.

Walsall's Dickson drove over the line after a close range scrum. Wood converted and then kicked a penalty to make it 21-13.

A poor clearance kick gave the hosts the opportunity to run in and score another try. This time it was Davies on the right wing.

Dan Clarke made good ground for the visitors before delivering a try scoring pass to Dave Merlin.

Walsall then played off a lineup and a fine drive saw hooker Clarke secure the touchdown. The last action of the half saw Campbell go over to make it 33-23 at the interval.

Clarke, Merlin, Wotton and Simpson were all involved before Dickson spun out of a tackle before going over to secure a bonus point for his team. The hosts got the final scores through a Banton penalty and a second Brookes try.



Matty Wood kicks an early penalty in Walsall's match at Burton

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